原　哲夫

この本が出る頃は、「影武者徳川家康」の連載も一年経過してることになります。難しいなぁと思えば、難しいし、楽しいなぁと思えば、楽しいし、苦しいなぁと思えば、これほど苦しいこともない。寝ても覚めても漫画を描いていて、こんな幸せなことはないんだけど、机の所で仮眠をとり、ムクリと起きて、また描く。ふと手塚治虫様の通ってこられた道のりをよく想うことがあります。

●週刊少年ジャンプ・H6年36・37合併号～46号掲載分収録

LOVE
J・C

JUMP COMICS 伊賀越…涙の帰参！の巻 4

影武者徳川家康

原作 隆慶一郎 漫画 原哲夫 脚本 會川昇

影武者徳川家康 4

原作 隆慶一郎
漫画 原哲夫
脚本 會川昇

集英社

JUMP COMICS

影武者徳川家康

かげむしゃ とくがわいえやす

Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Volume 4: Iga Pass... The Return of Tears!

伊賀越…涙の帰参！の巻 4

脚本 會川昇

原作 隆慶一郎

漫画 原哲夫

Original Work: Keiichiro Ryu

Manga: Tetsuo Hara

Characters

Tokugawa Hidetada

Honda Masanobu

Honda Tadakatsu

Yagyu Munenori

Monna Sukezaemon

Suri

Tokugawa Ieyasu
(Serada Jirosaburo
Motonobu)

Lady Kaji

Ina Akitsuna

Fukushima Masanori

Summary

The Age of the Warring States...

Many a Feudal Lord kept a decoy of himself, known as a "Shadow Warrior," by his side at all times, as a safeguard against assassination. Even **Tokugawa Ieyasu** had a Shadow Warrior who was an exact duplicate of himself. His name: **Serada Jirosaburo Motonobu!!**

Jirosaburo was a Vagabond, a man who wandered the country seeking a living, but he was discovered by the strategist Honda Yahachiro Masanobu, and became Ieyasu's Shadow Warrior.

However, Ieyasu was assassinated in the **Battle of Sekigahara,** and as he died, he told Jirosaburo to hide his death and entrusted him with taking the nation. Inheriting his will, he proceeded to ensure a grand victory in the Battle of Sekigahara with expert leadership, and went on to besiege Ishida Mitsunari's castle of Sawayama.

And so, leaving **Hidetada,** who was late for Sekigahara, in Kusatsu, he summoned **Yahachiro,** the Tokugawa's greatest strategist, to Otsu, and discussed the future of the Tokugawa with him... but of all things, Ieyasu's most beloved concubine, **Lady Kaji,** came with him. Naturally, Kaji, who had felt the real Ieyasu's skin, could expose the fact that the new Ieyasu was a fake. However, Jirosaburo opened Kaji's heart with courage and kindness, and convinced her to cooperate with him for the sake of Ieyasu's dream of the nation of the Tokugawa. Meanwhile, a certain man stood before Hidetada in Kusatsu...

Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Volume 4: Iga Pass... The Return of Tears!

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Chapter 24: The Exposed Nature!

Chapter 24: The Exposed Nature!

Y... YOUR NAME... WAS... YAGYU...?
YES ...
I AM THE HEIR OF YAGYU SEKISHUSAI, AND I PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA.
ALL WHO KNOW MY SECRET MUST PERISH!
BUT FOR CERTAIN REASONS, I COULDN'T RALLY ENOUGH SOLDIERS...
AND I WAS PLACED IN THE REAR OF LORD HONDA TADAKATSU'S FORCES, FORCED TO PLAY SPECTATOR AT THE BATTLE WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO LIFT A FINGER...
I THEN FOLLOWED HIM, AND UNCOVERED A SHOCKING SECRET IN THE MAIN CAMP.
BUT THANKS TO THAT, I CAUGHT ONTO LORD HONDA'S ABNORMAL ACTIONS.
COME OUT!!
THERE'S A THIEF! COME OUT!!
HUH ?

AH! WHO GOES THERE!?
AH! MY LORD!!
SILENCE! I HAVE ALREADY HEARD NEWS OF THE SHADOW WARRIOR'S DEATH!
NO, PLEASE WAIT!

HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE!?
M. MY LORD, ARE YOU HURT ?

AND TRIED TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME BY TELLING ME MY FATHER WAS DEAD.
NO, THIS MAN CAME BREAKING IN...
W... WHAT!?

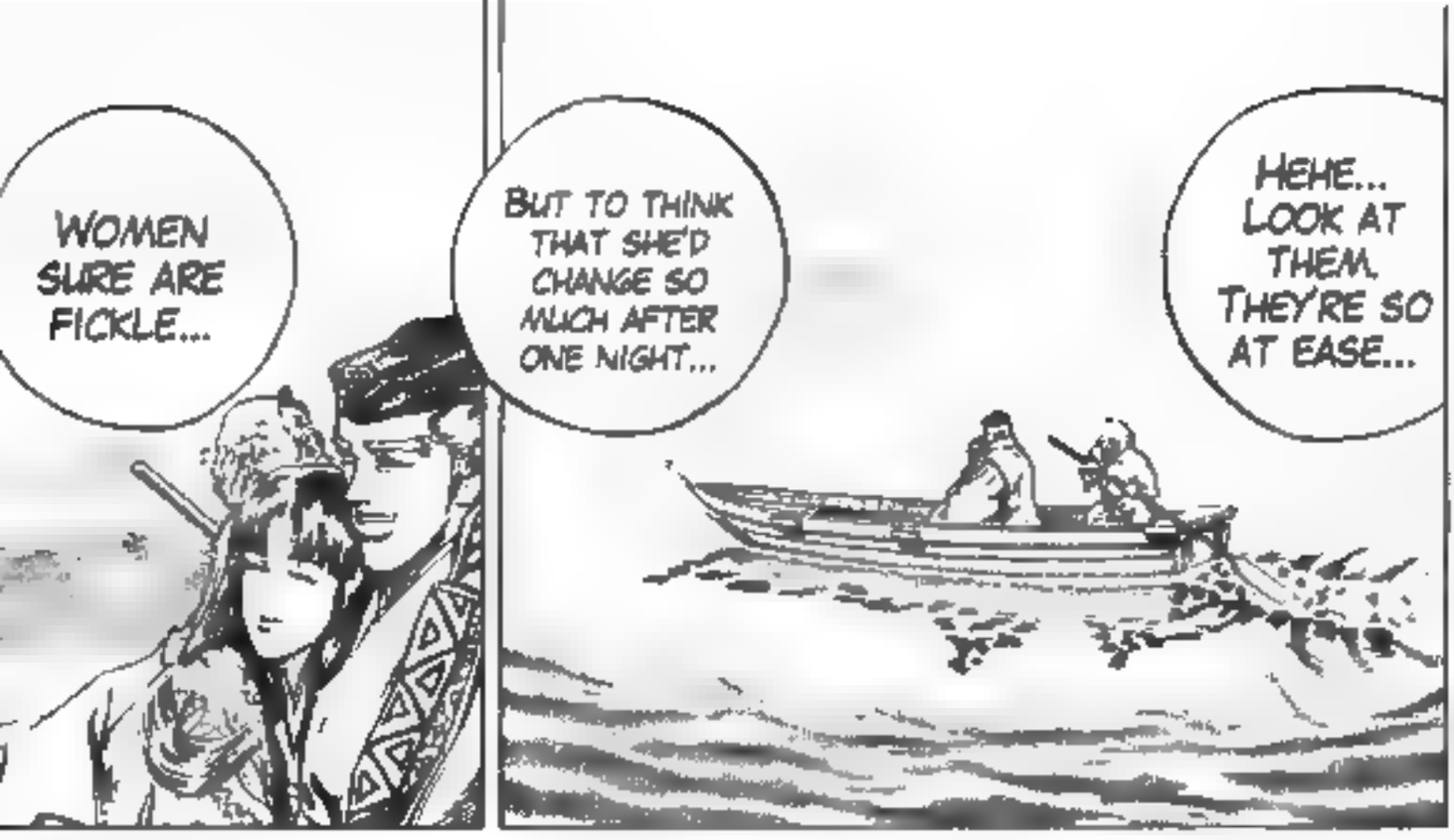
W... WHAT'S WITH THIS MAN?
YES, PLEASE DO.
T... THAT'S UNTHINKABLE. WE MUST PUNISH HIM!
W... WHAT WAS THAT?
UNNNGH... SO THE RUMORS THAT HE WAS HONEST WERE JUST THAT... CHOOSING HIM WAS OUR ERROR.
H-HUH ...?
!
UHH ...

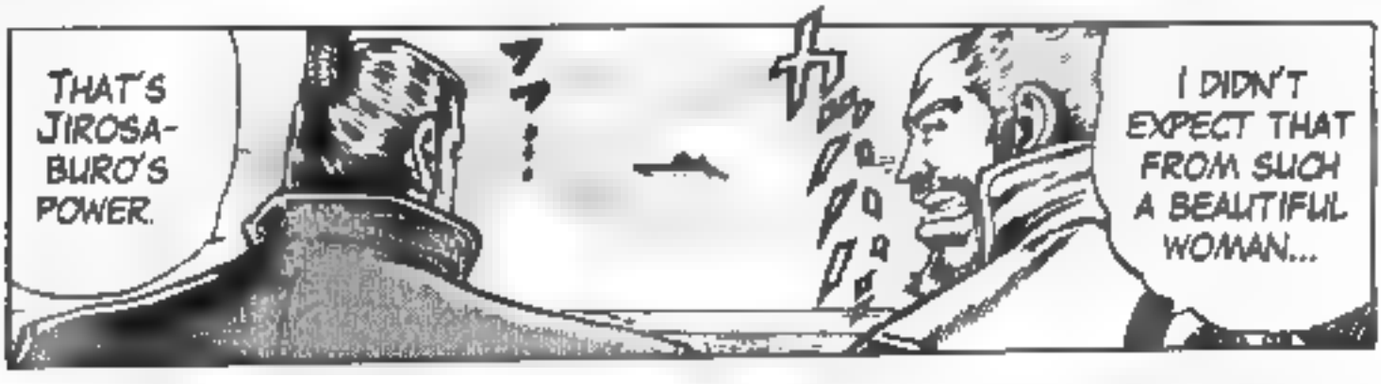
PROOF !!
I HAVE ...
WAH!
PROOF !!
OOH!
!?

AHHHH!
AH!

W... WHEN DID HE ...?
WHA!?
HEHEHE... LET ME SHOW YOU.
AHH!!

Otsu

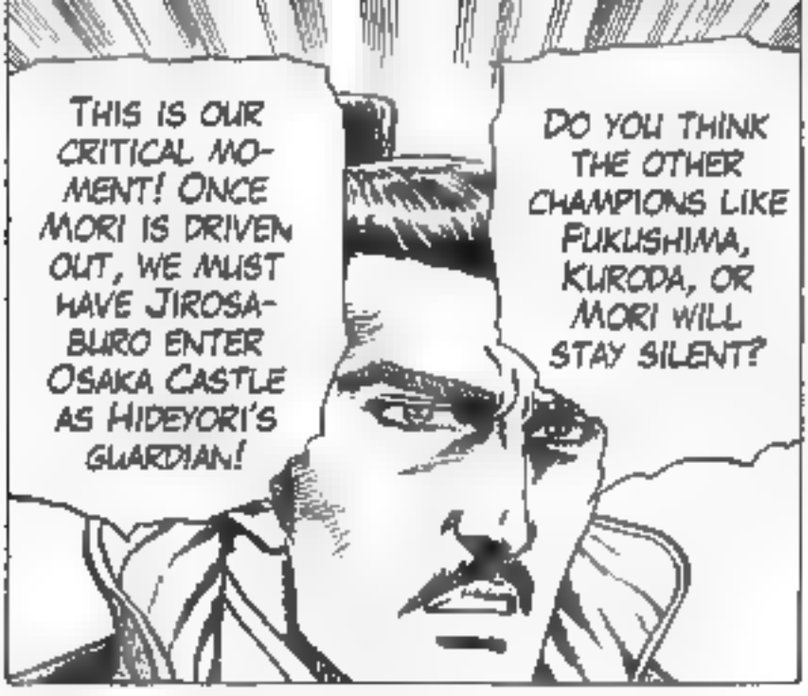

WOMEN SURE ARE FICKLE...
BUT TO THINK THAT SHE'D CHANGE SO MUCH AFTER ONE NIGHT...
HEHE... LOOK AT THEM. THEY'RE SO AT EASE...


THAT'S JIROSABURO'S POWER.
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT FROM SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...

NOW MORI DOESN'T HAVE ANY REASON TO REMAIN IN OSAKA CASTLE. HE WILL COME OUT SOON.
MITSUNARI STARTED THIS WAR IN THE FIRST PLACE.

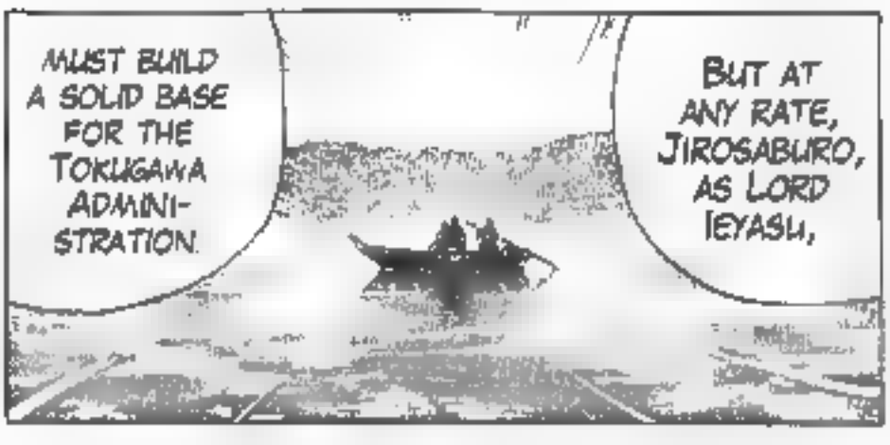
I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT ISHIDA MITSUNARI HAS BEEN CAPTURED.
HMM...

HUH!?
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY YET!
NO...
IS TO TELL LORD HIDETADA THIS SECRET
ALL THAT'S LEFT..


THIS IS OUR CRITICAL MOMENT! ONCE MORI IS DRIVEN OUT, WE MUST HAVE JIROSABURO ENTER OSAKA CASTLE AS HIDEYORI'S GUARDIAN!
DO YOU THINK THE OTHER CHAMPIONS LIKE FUKUSHIMA, KURODA, OR MORI WILL STAY SILENT?

OUR LORD IS STILL NEEDED BY HIS COUNTRY! EVEN THE TRIUMPH AT SEKIGAHARA MEANS NAUGHT WITH THE COMMANDER DEAD!
W...WHY? DO YOU PLAN TO KEEP HIDING OUR LORD'S DEATH AND NOT TELL HIS HEIR, LORD HIDETADA?

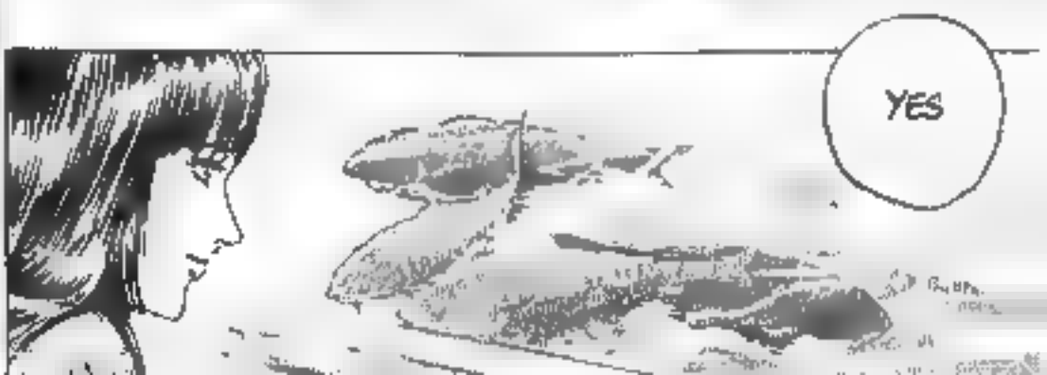
!.....
HIDETADA IS NOT FIT FOR THAT ROLE!


MUST BUILD A SOLID BASE FOR THE TOKUGAWA ADMINISTRATION.
BUT AT ANY RATE, JIROSABURO, AS LORD IEYASU,

Y... YOU'RE RIGHT...
.....

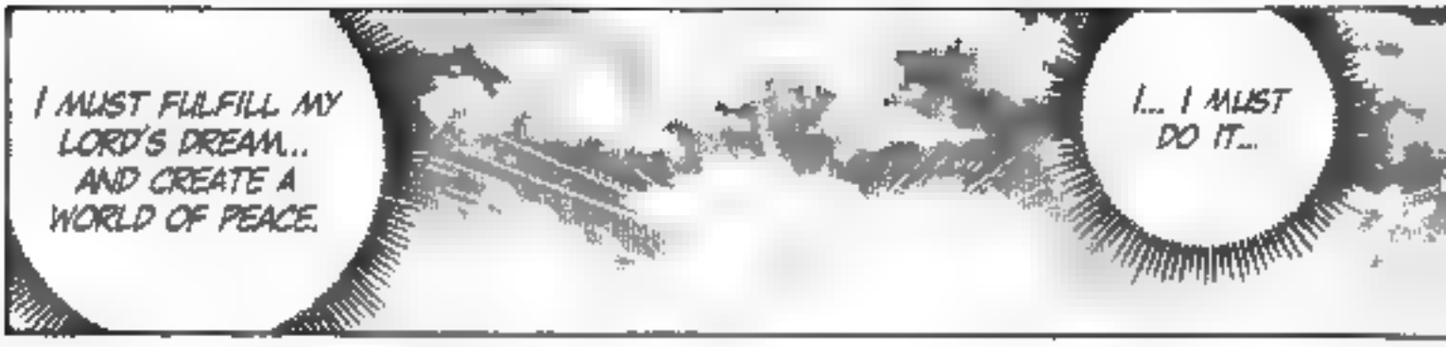
RIGHT NOW I AM.
LIKE THAT CARP.

IT SURE IS QUIET ...


YES

I WAS A CARP LANGUISHING IN A TINY POND.
BEFORE ...
HUH ...?
THANKS TO YOU, I HAVE LEARNED THE TRUE MEANING OF FREEDOM.
BUT
.....
.....
THANK GOOD-NESS ...
YEAH ...
...BUT, IT'S ALMOST TOO PEACE-FUL...
THE BATTLE OF THE SUNDERED NATION WAS ONLY SIX DAYS AGO.. BUT IT SEEMS LIKE A DREAM.
WE COULD STAY LIKE THIS... FOREVER...
I-.. IF ONLY ...

.....


I MUST FULFILL MY LORD'S DREAM... AND CREATE A WORLD OF PEACE.
I... I MUST DO IT...

F... FATHER'S... HAHAHA... I-IEYASU'S HEAD...
HAHHAH HAH! T... THIS IS... HAHHAHA!

HEHE ...
HEH ...
HEH HE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK..? AS HIS KIN, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL.

S-SO HE'S DEAD!
HA HA HA!
H-HOW DARE YOU EVEN BRING HIS HEAD FOR YOUR LITTLE JOKE!
THAT WAS THE SHADOW WARRIOR'S HEAD AFTER ALL!
...UNNGH... I-I KNEW IT!
HUH!?
!
HE'S DEAAAAAD! HAHA HAHA!
HAHHA! HE'S DEAD!
...M... MY LORD ..!?
SERVES YOU RIGHT!

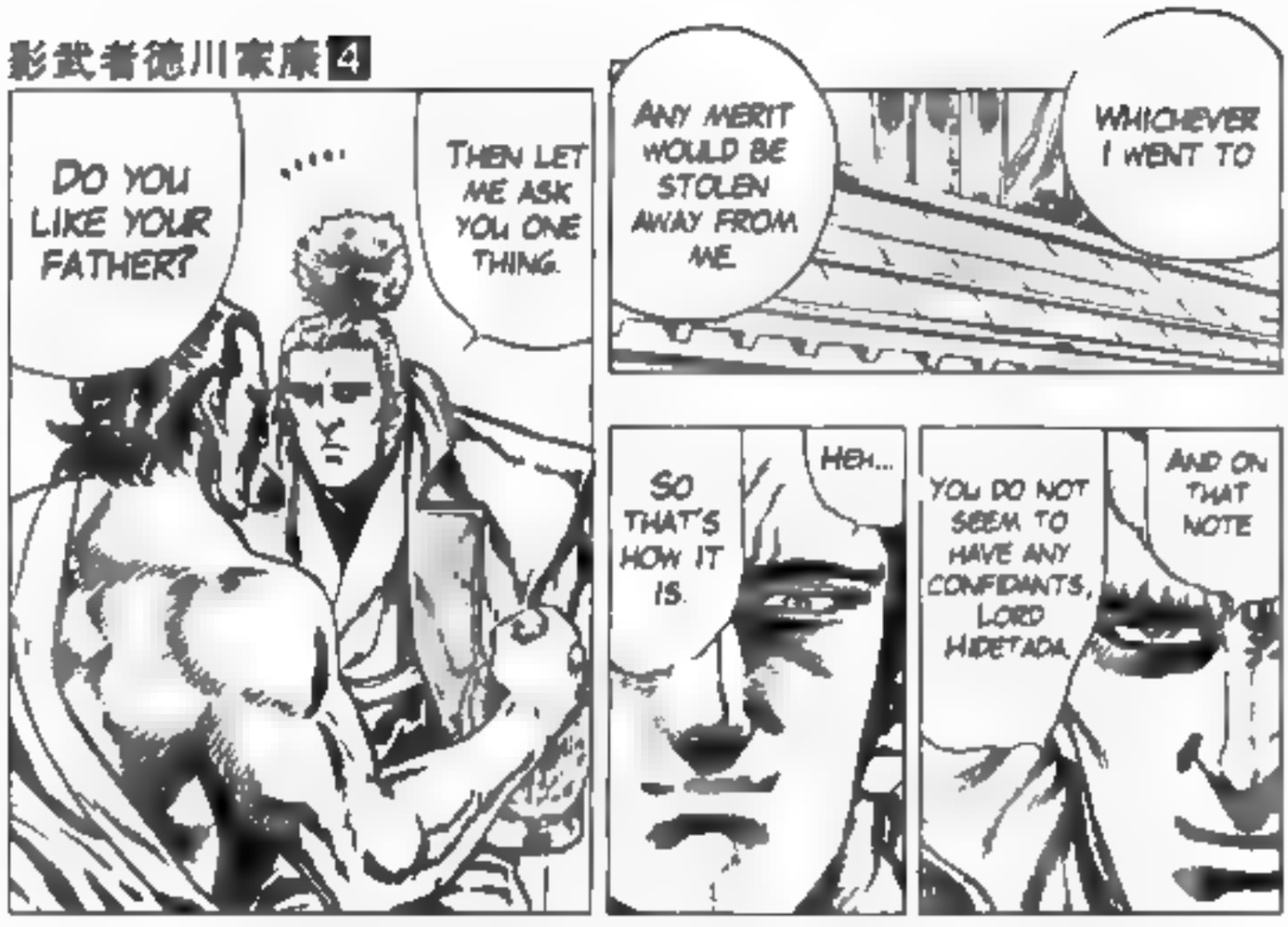
!!
HAHAHA! THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! T... THIS IS THE HEAD OF MY FATHER IEYASU!!
HAHAHAHAAAAAA! THIS ISN'T THE SHADOW'S, NOT REMOTELY!
L-LORD HIDETADA'S F-FACE...
.....
!!

THIS IS JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, LORD HIDETADA.
TO ANYONE ELSE.
I HAVE NOT
SPOKEN A WORD OF THIS
I UNDERSTAND.
HUH!?
"!!"
THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE HERE WHO SHOULDN'T HAVE HEARD THIS
NO ...

OH
SO THAT IS THE MUCH-RUMORED YAGYU SHINKAGE STYLE.
PO KYA GE EN
DAB KYU UN

INDEED. AND SO I DECIDED TO BRING THIS NEWS TO A MEMBER OF THE TOKUGAWA CLAN.
A REWARD?
BECAUSE I DESIRE A REWARD.
BUT WHY APPROACH ME WITH THIS NEWS?

AND YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER, LORD TADAYOSHI, IS UNDER HIS GUARDIAN, HIS FATHER-IN-LAW II NAOMASA.
BUT YOUR ELDER BROTHER, LORD HIDEYASU, IS FAR AWAY IN UTSUNOMIYA,

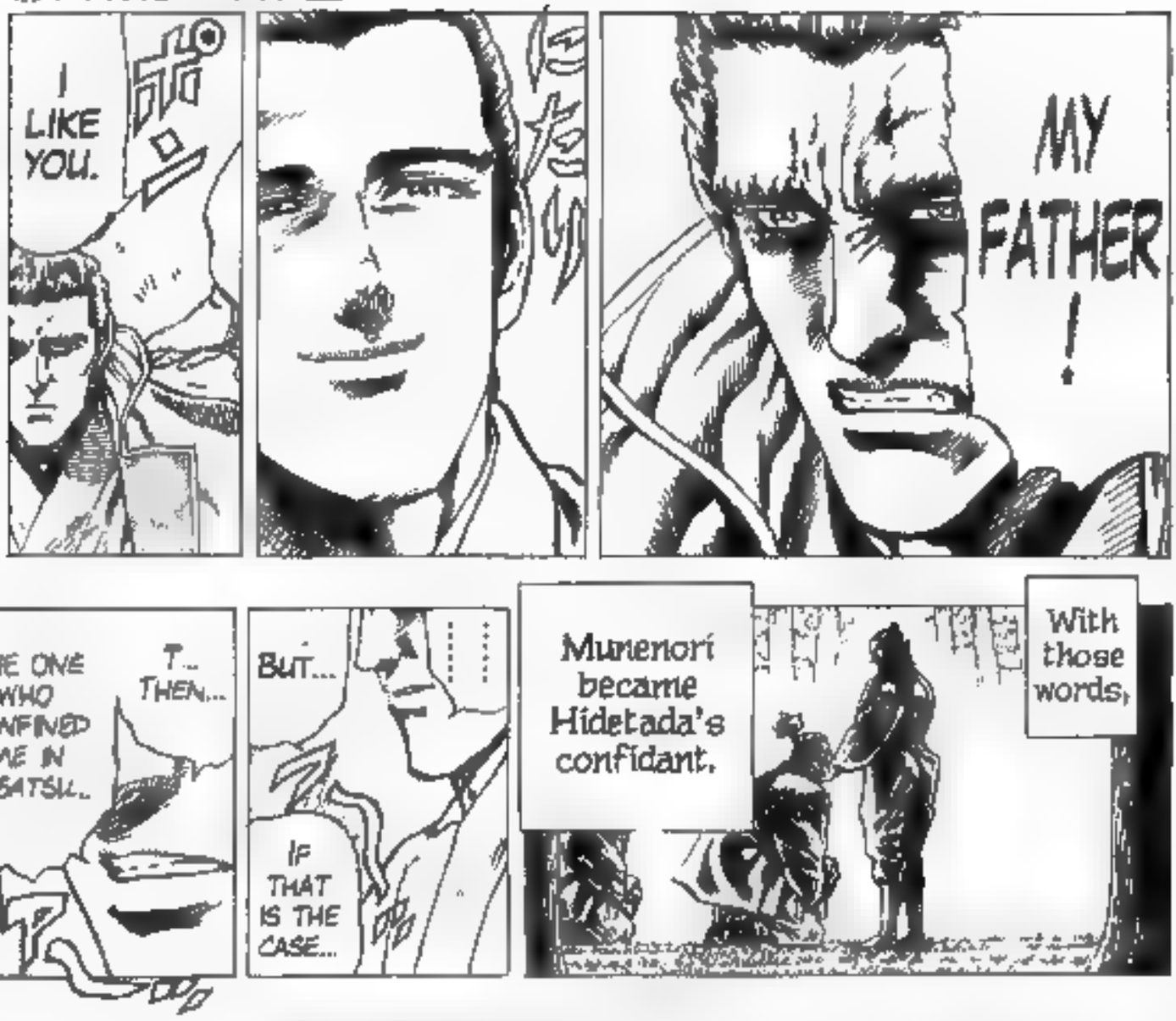

DO YOU LIKE YOUR FATHER?
.....
THEN LET ME ASK YOU ONE THING.
ANY MERIT WOULD BE STOLEN AWAY FROM ME.
WHICHEVER I WENT TO
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
HEH...
YOU DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY CONFIDANTS, LORD HIDETADA.
AND ON THAT NOTE

W... WHY NOT, FATHER!?
A few days before the Battle of Sekigahara
Yagyu Valley

HUH!?
MY... FATHER?

WE HAVE FIVE HUNDRED MEN ALL TOGETHER
HEH...
.....
HAS PROMISED TO RESTORE THE YAGYUS' THREE-THOUSAND-KOKU FIEF!
I-IF WE ROUSE OUR MEN NOW, THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR...

I WON'T LET YOUR WHEEDLING LEAD TO THE EXTINCTION OF THE SHINGAKE STYLE!
SIL-ENCE!
BY THAT TIME, THE MAJORITY OF OUR SOLDIERS WILL BE DEAD WOULD YOU LET THEM ALL DIE FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR OWN ADVANCE MENT?
AND WHO WILL TAKE THE RE-WARD?
THEY ARE NOT TO BE USED AS PAWNS!
THE CLAN'S PROSPERITY IS TRULY WITHIN MY HEART
Y... YOU'RE WRONG!
B... BUT THE REWARD ...
DO IT YOUR-SELF!
IF YOU SO DESIRE IT...
I... I HATE ...
I... IF ONLY I HAD HAD FIVE HUNDRED MEN, I COULD HAVE ACHIEVED MERIT BEFORE IEYASU!
AND SO, I TOLD IEYASU THAT I COULD NO LONGER RISE UP FOR HIM...
AND MY DREAM OF THREE THOUSAND KOKU HAD VANISHED

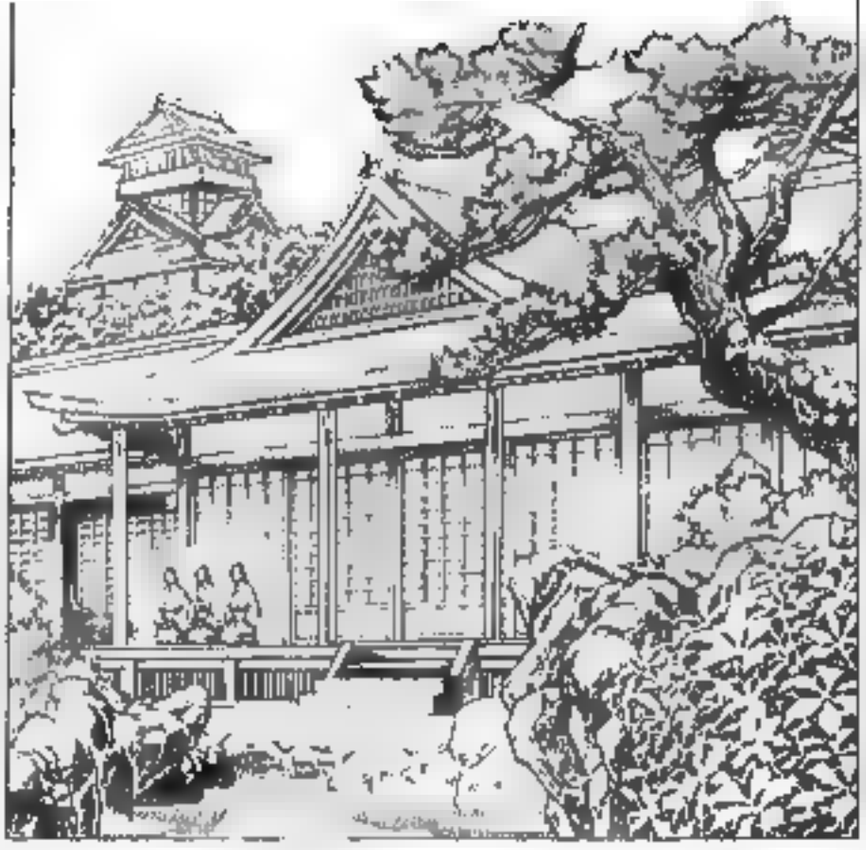

I LIKE YOU.
MY FATHER!
THE ONE WHO CONFINED ME IN KUSATSU.
T... THEN...
BUT...
IF THAT IS THE CASE...
Munenori became Hidetada's confidant.
With those words,
I MUST RECEIVE MY COMPEN-SATION ...
IN THAT CASE ...
AND WHO MADE ME WASTE AWAY WITH THE FEAR OF SUICIDE... WAS AN IMPOSTER USING MY FATHER'S NAME... THE SHADOW WARRIOR?
YES.

Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Twenty Four

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

Chapter 25: The Council of Kusatsu!



Chapter 25: The Council of Kusatsu!
J-
JIRO-SABURO ...
W.. WHAT ...?
WRO OOO ONG !!
I SUPPOSE HE'S TRYING TO WIN BACK MY FAVOR AFTER HIS "MADNESS IN BATTLE
OHH
MY!
HMM !?
M-MY LORD !!
WHAT'S THE RUSH, TADA-KATSU ?
AS TRIBUTE FROM KUSATSU.
LORD HIDETADA JUST SENT US SOMETHING UNTHINKABLE
EEK !
AIEE EE!
AH !
29
28

LADY KAJI,
YOU HAD BEST NOT LOOK.
SURELY YOU'RE EXAGGERATING.
HEHE
Y.. YOU SHOULDN'T LOOK
WHAT IS INSIDE?
W WHAT IS THE MATTER?

AI EEE EEE EEE EEE EEE EEE EEE EEE EEE EE !
AH!
NO ...!
IT'S NOT AS IF THERE IS A SNAKE INSIDE
WHY WOULD YOU HIDE IT FROM ME?

AND THEN INFORMED LORD HIDETADA.
SOMEONE MUST HAVE SEEN THE SECRET AT SEKIGAHARA
.....
.....
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
KCCH
MY LORD ...
M...

WHAT MY LORD SAID THAT DAY TURNED OUT TO BE TRUE.
.....
HE CANNOT BE SANE!
I-... IS THIS SOMETHING A SON WOULD DO?
SO THESE ARE HIDETADA'S TRUE COLORS
.....
THIS WAS WHEN MY LORD WAS TAKING HIS THIRD SON HIDETADA AND FOURTH SON TADAYOSHI TO PRACTICE THEIR FALCONRY
AFTER IT!
Third son Hidetada
NOW, MOKO-MARU!
GO!
Fourth son Tadayoshi

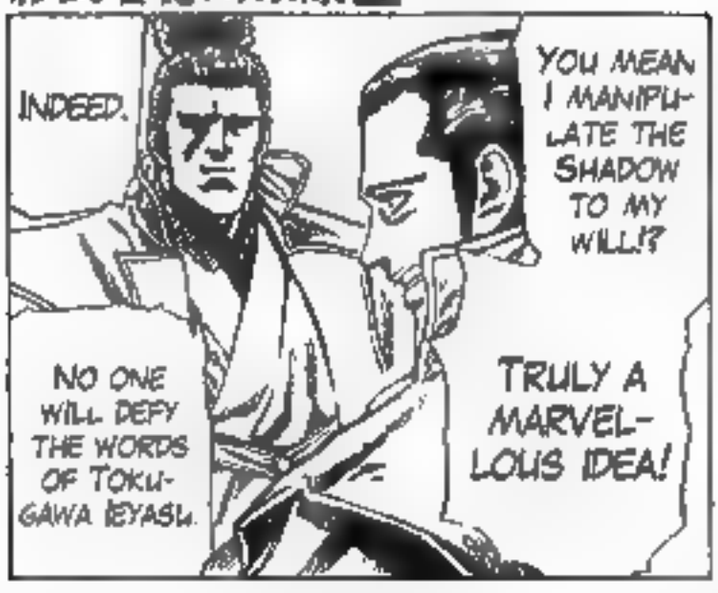
WHAT'S THE MATTER? GO, NOW!
HWH !?
WELL DONE, TADAYOSHI!
FATHER!
OHH... LORD TADAYOSHI CAUGHT ANOTHER ONE.
YES, IN COMPARISON TO HIDETADA, TADAYOSHI'S MARTIAL SKILL AND POTENTIAL SHINES EVEN BRIGHTER.
AH!
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS HIDETADA NOT CAUGHT ANYTHING?
Someone had killed Tadayoshi's falcon.
MOKO-MARU !
The next day ...
I SWEAR.
THIS TIME! THIS TIME I'LL CATCH ONE!
I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE! I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE!

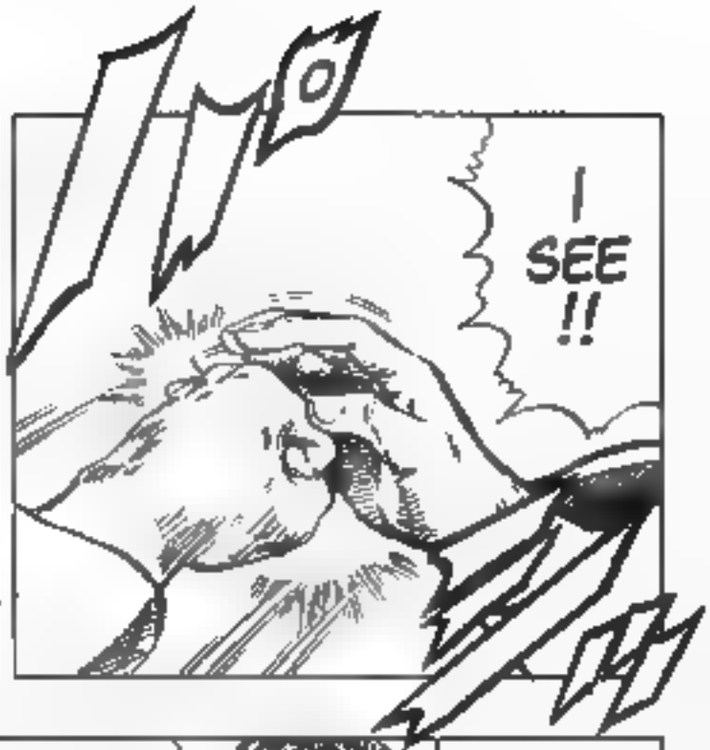
HIS HEAD'S CUT OFF! ISN'T THAT JUST CRUEL?
OH, LOOK! IT'S DEAD!
OH, WHAT'S THE MATTER HERE?
SOB ...
W... WHO COULD BE SO CRUEL...?
BUT THEN WHAT WILL YOU...
YURIWAKA-MARU.
I'LL LET YOU HAVE ...
!
HEHE... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
HUH!? YOUR FALCON ?
DON'T BE SO DOWN, TADAYOSHI
HUH?
HIDETADA... IF YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY THE HYPOCRITE...
PLAY IT TO THE END!
AH!
SO YOU WERE WATCHING FATHER?
にや!

JIROSABURO, HE IS WEARING A MASK OF HONESTY AND FIDELITY SO AS NOT TO INCUR MY WRATH.
BUT HIS TRUE NATURE IS THAT OF A CALLOUS, HEARTLESS VILLAIN. I, WHO TOOK THE LIVES OF MY WIFE AND CHILD TO SAFEGUARD MY STATE FROM NOBUNAGA, RECOGNIZE MORE OF MYSELF IN HIM THAN IN MY OTHER CHILDREN.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
THAT WAS HIDETADA'S DOING. ONE OF MY NINJA GUARDS SAW THE WHOLE THING LAST NIGHT
WELL...
HUH?
WE MUST ENTRUST EVERYTHING TO LORD HIDETADA.
WAIT !!
YES... WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE. WE WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO LORD HIDETADA, AND AFTER THAT
IF LORD HIDETADA IS DOING THIS, HE MUST WANT BOTH OF US TO TRAVEL TO KUSATSU.
...AT ANY RATE ..
!!

NO. I HAVE A PLAN.
LEND ME YOUR EAR.
IT IS TOO DANGEROUS TO ENTRUST THE TOKUGAWA CLAN TO HIM.
HIDETADA IS CLEARLY ON THE WARPATH SINCE HE DISCOVERED HIS FATHER'S DEATH.
BUT HE'S THE OFFICIAL HEIR! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!
I KNOW THAT MUCH!
HMM!?
Kusatsu
MY LORD
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NOW?
INDEED THEY COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED THAT WE WOULD SEND THEM OUR LORD'S HEAD.
HEHHEH HE...
I'LL BET THEY'VE LOST THEIR NERVES AT OTSU CASTLE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
OH!?
SHOULDN'T IT BE OBVIOUS!?
HEHE ...

HUH !?
THIS MAN COULD HAVE BEEN DISINHERITED FOR HIS LATENESS TO SEKIGAHARA.
AND YET HE DARES BE SO RECKLESS..
THEN I WILL LET THE OTHER LORDS KNOW OF MY FATHER'S DEATH,
FIRST, I WILL EXECUTE THE USELESS SHADOW WARRIOR WHO COULD NOT PROTECT MY FATHER!
AND ALL THE WORLD WILL SEE THAT THE TOKUGAWA CLAN IS MINE BY BLOOD RIGHT... AND THE NATION AS WELL!
BUT I HAVE THOUGHT OF A GOOD PLAN..
TO INCREASE YOUR AUTHORITY, LORD!
HMM ...
EVENTUALLY?
EVENTUALLY... THAT WILL HAPPEN.
WILL SO EASILY APPROVE OF YOUR INHERITANCE AFTER YOUR TARDINESS.
YES. I DON'T BELIEVE LORDS YUKI HIDEYASU OR MATSUDAIRA TADAYOSHI


INDEED.
YOU MEAN I MANIPULATE THE SHADOW TO MY WILL!?
NO ONE WILL DEFY THE WORDS OF TOKUGAWA IEYASU.
TRULY A MARVELLOUS IDEA!


I SEE !!

REPORTING IN! LORDS HONDA TADAKATSU AND HONDA MASANOBU HAVE JUST ARRIVED!

HAAAH HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA!

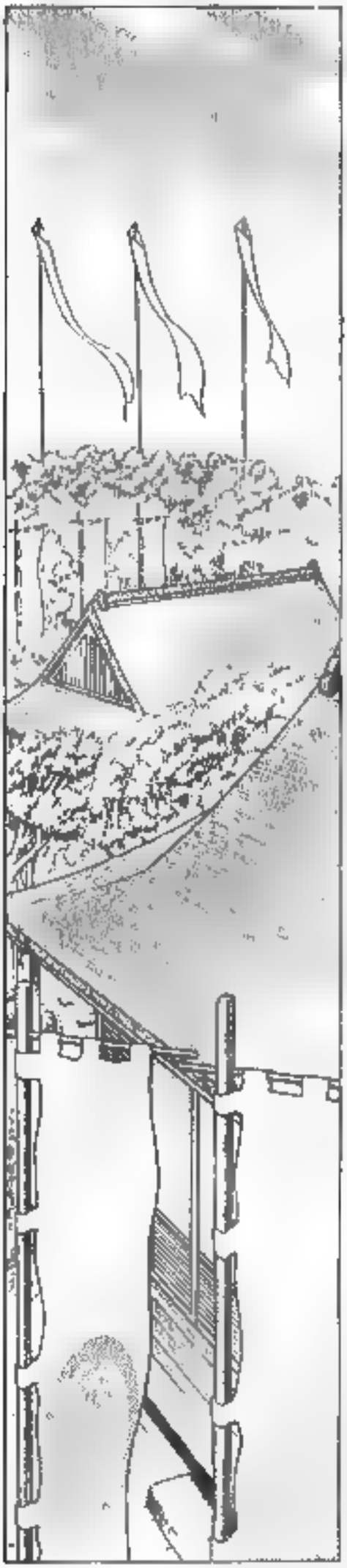
AND FORCE HIM TO FORGIVE MY LATENESS TO SEKIGAHARA ...
I WILL KEEP THE SHADOW ALIVE AS IEYASU,

AND MY BROTHERS WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP ME!
THEN I WILL HAVE HIM DECLARE ME HIS SUCCESSOR

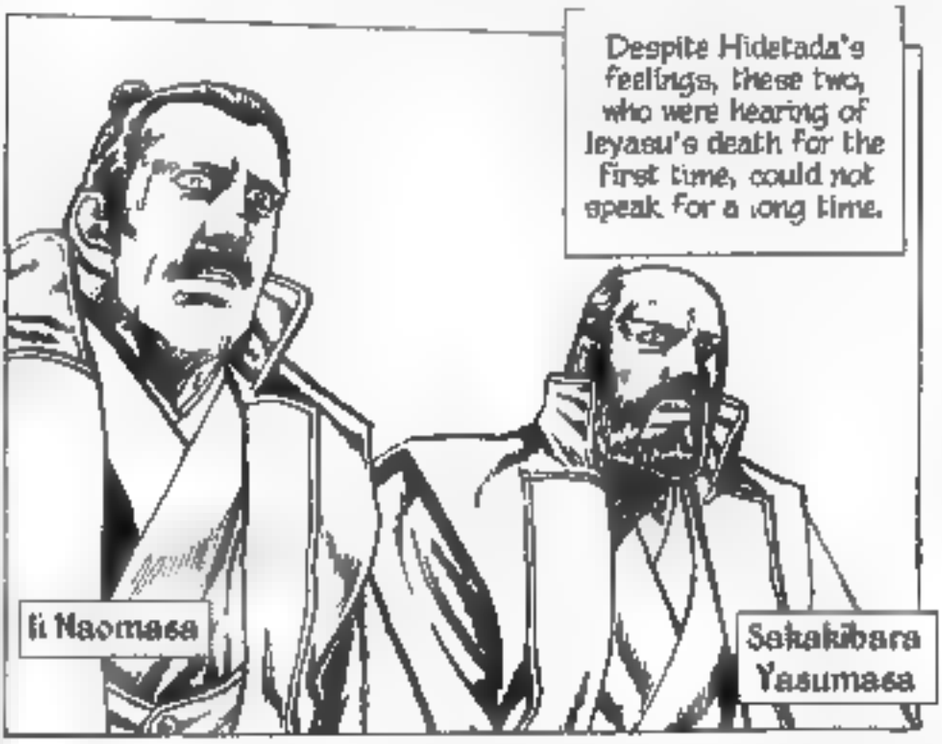
YES.
GOOD WORK.

IT'S PERFECT!
HAHHA HA!
HEH HEH ... THIS IS GOOD!

W...
H.
-AT!?
LORDS II NAOMASA AND SAKAKIBARA YASUMASA HAVE ARRIVED!
I UNDER
YES.
He had sent Ii and Sakakibara, of the Tokugawa's Four Heavenly Kings, to Kusatsu, to forestall Hidetada.
This was Jirosaburo's plan.



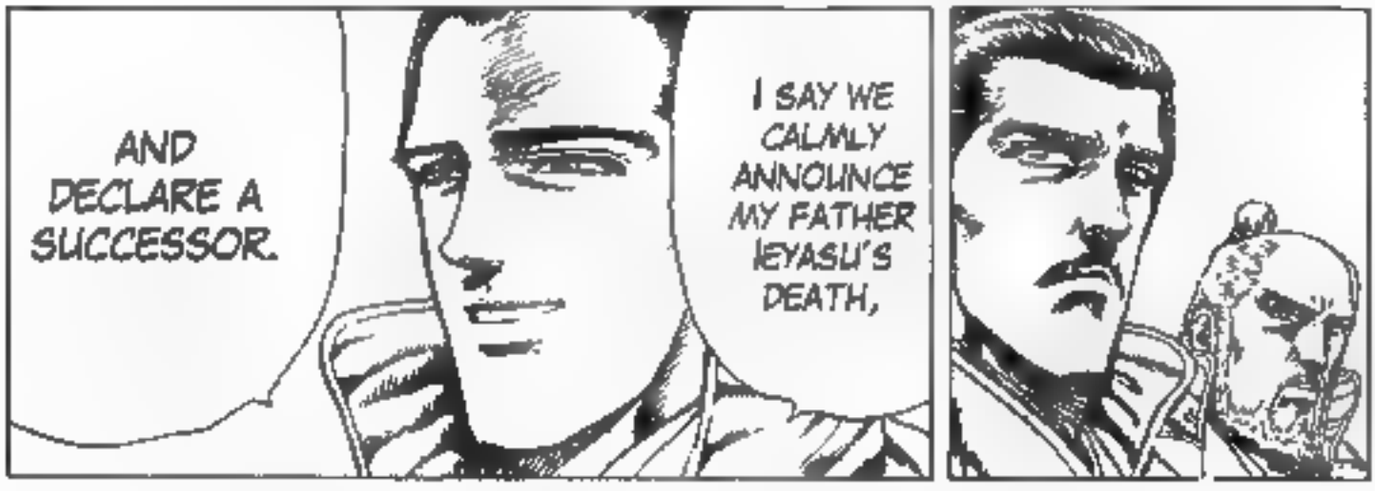
WHO SUMMONED THOSE TWO? GODDAMMIT!
D... DAMN! HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?


Despite Hidetada's feelings, these two, who were hearing of Ieyasu's death for the first time, could not speak for a long time.
Ii Naomasa
Sakakibara Yasumasa

KCCH... THIS CANNOT BE!
Naomasa, Tadayoshi's guardian, was especially dumbfounded, because this meant that Tadayoshi's exploits had all been for nothing. What's more, Tadayoshi could not be present for the council that determined the fate of the Tokugawa.

BUT THE SAVING GRACE IS THAT MY BROTHER TADAYOSHI IS NOT HERE.
NO MATTER. THESE TWO MAY HAVE TAKEN ME BY SURPRISE

WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO KEEP HIM BURDENED FOREVER.
ABOUT THE SHADOW WARRIOR...
FIRST OFF, ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS MY OPINION.


AND DECLARE A SUCCESSOR.
I SAY WE CALMLY ANNOUNCE MY FATHER IEYASU'S DEATH,

YES. Y-YOU'RE RIGHT
I THINK SO, TOO.
HUH?
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...
LORDS TADAKATSU AND NAOMASA, WHO WERE FIRST TO THE FIGHT, MUST HAVE THEIR OPINIONS HEARD FIRST
WE WERE LATE FOR THE BATTLE

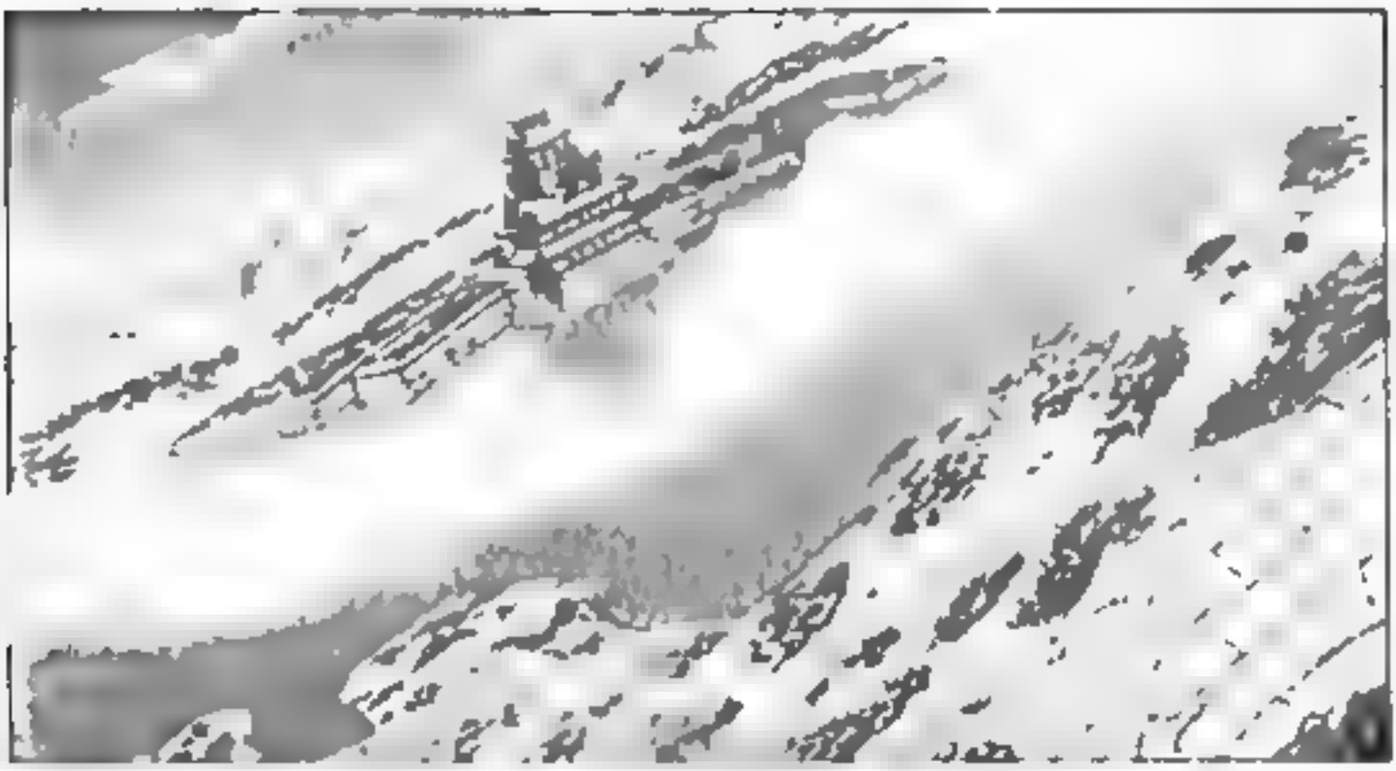
HE WILL REMAIN IN OSAKA CASTLE! AND IN THAT CASE, WE CAN FORGET ABOUT THE NATION!
BUT MORI IS STILL IN OSAKA CASTLE! IF MORI KNOWS THAT IEYASU IS DEAD,
S-SA-KAKI-BARA!
NOW THAT LORD IEYASU IS DEAD, HIDE-TADA SHOULD BE THE ONE TO SUCCEED HIM.
BUT HOWEVER LATE HE MAY HAVE BEEN...
WE MUST TREAT THE SHADOW WARRIOR AS LORD IEYASU, AT LEAST UNTIL THE TOKU-GAWA ADMINISTRA-TION IS SOLIDIFIED!
AT THE VERY LEAST, THE SUCCESSORSHIP ISSUE SHOULD COME SECOND, UNTIL WE HAVE GOTTEN RID OF TOYOTOMI HIDEYORI AND COMPLETELY GATHERED THE NATION IN OUR HANDS!
!!
!

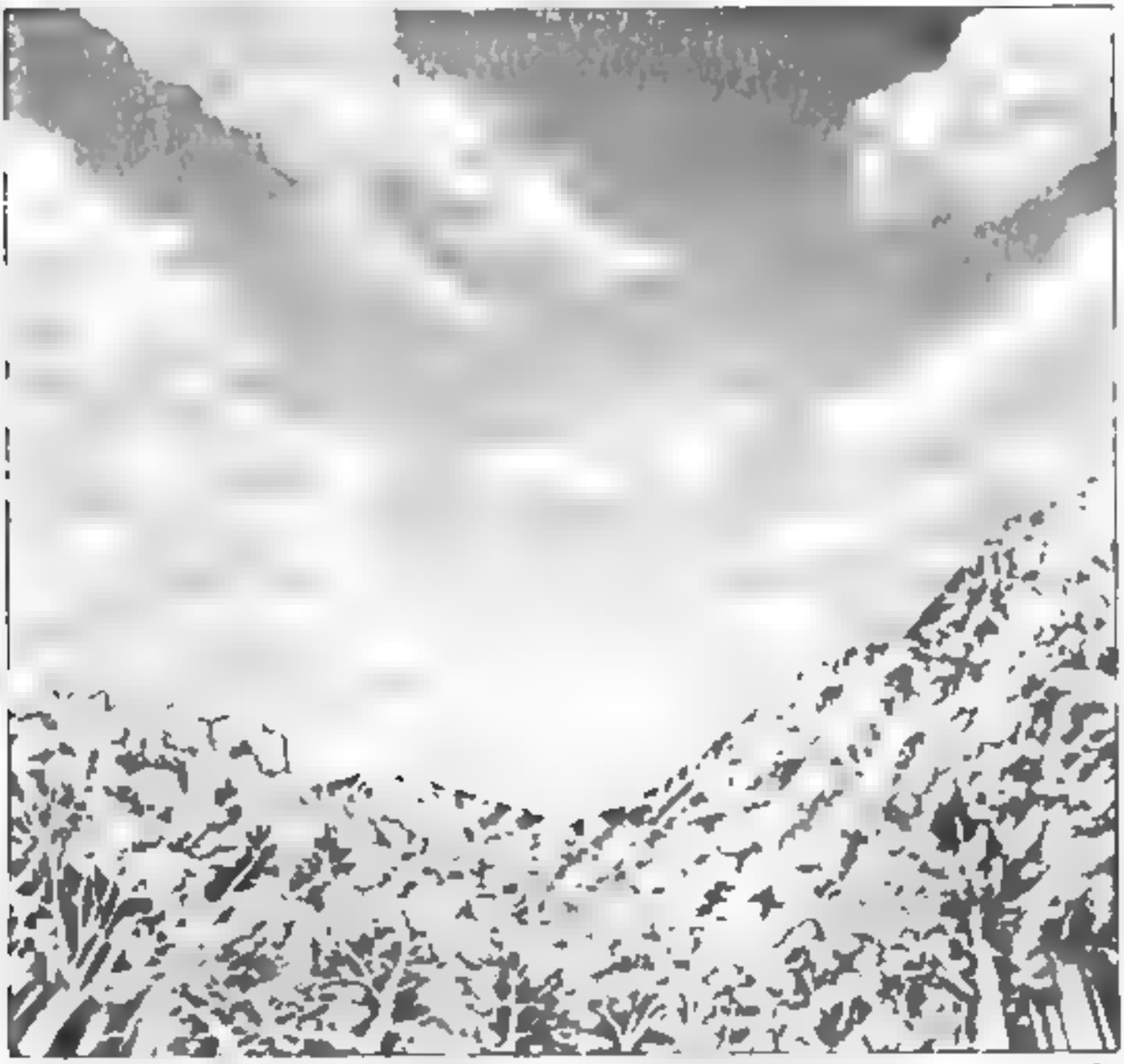
WHAT IS THE MATTER, MY LORD?
HMM!?
HMM?
..MAY INHERIT THE TOKUGAWA RIGHT NOW
AS IT STANDS NOW, NOT EVEN LORD HIDEYASU, MUCH LESS LORD HIDETADA,
OH, NOTHING.
THUS, IT IS CRIMINAL TO FAIL SUCH DUTY.
INDEED. THE SHADOW WARRIOR'S DUTY IS TO PROTECT HIS LORD.
ARE YOU NOT CHARGING HIM?
BUT AS FOR THE CRIME OF THE SHADOW WARRIOR...
CRIME?
THAT MAN IS A GREAT CRIMINAL.
I SEE. YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT, LORD YASUMASA.

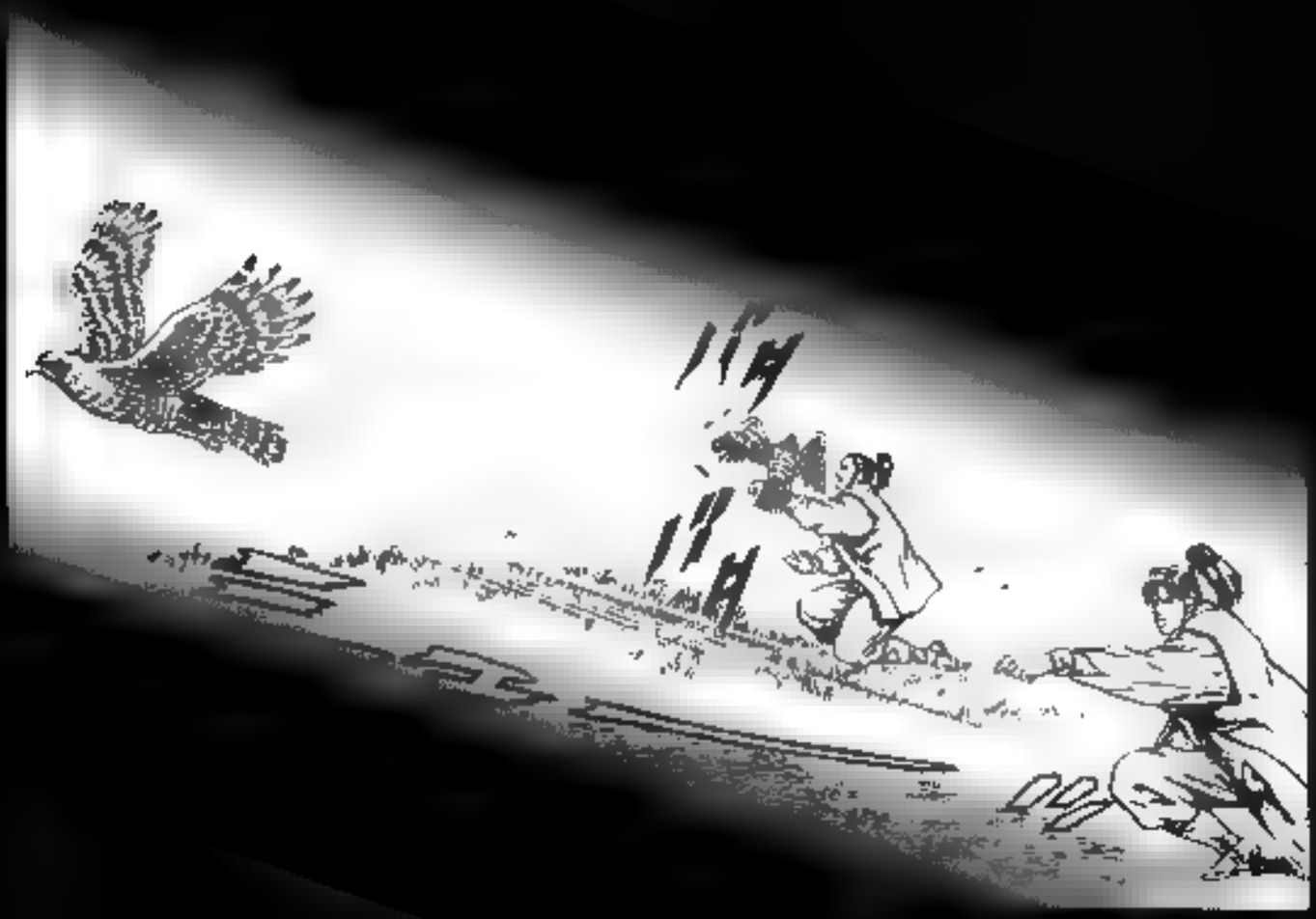
YOU SUGGEST WE SHOULD HAVE HIS HEAD CUT OFF AND PRESENTED BEFORE OUR LORD'S GRAVE?
N-NO, W-WHAT I MEANT IS ...
A A CRIME IS A CRIME.. SO WE SHOULD FIRST CHARGE HIM AND THEN PARDON HIM...
WE CAN'T DO THAT!!
THAT MAN BLAMES HIMSELF FOR THIS! IF WE CHARGE HIM, HE WILL FALL ON HIS SWORD!
UH... Y... YOU'RE RIGHT...
THE SHADOW CAN ONLY FULFILL THIS ROLE IF HE IS SO MINDED!
WHAT LORD TADAKATSU SAYS IS RIGHT
WE CANNOT ADD MORE CONDITIONS TO AN ALREADY GREAT ROLE!
!!
...
LORD HIDETADA, DO YOU AGREE TO THIS?

YES, MY LORD!
BUT PLEASE REPORT EVERY DETAIL TO ME.
IF YOU ALL FEEL THAT WAY, THEN I CONSENT.
THAT'S NO DIFFERENT THAN IF MY FATHER STILL DREW BREATH!
THEY WANT ME TO CONSIDER THE SHADOW MY FATHER?
GODDAMMIT! THOSE BASTARDS! THEY SAID WE SHOULD KEEP SUPPORTING THE SHADOW AS IEYASU!
TO HELL WITH THAT!
IS THAT SO. SO THAT IS HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT

M... MUNE-NORI...
HUFF HUFF
PERFORM ASSASSIN-ATIONS?
CAN THE YAGYU ...
YES, SIR!
HOW MANY YAGYU NINJAS COULD YOU GATHER IF YOU MOBILIZED THEM NOW?
FIFTY.
I WILL RESTORE THE YAGYU'S THREE-THOUSAND-KOKU FIEF, AND A THOUSAND KOKU WILL BE YOURS ALONE.
HOWEVER, YOU MUST PREPARE THOSE FIFTY NINJA FOR AN IMMEDI-ATE TASK!
YES. THE YAMATO YAGYUS' MANOR IS NEAR IGA.
WE HAVE HAD NINJA ARTS PASSED DOWN INSIDE OUR CLAN SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.







Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

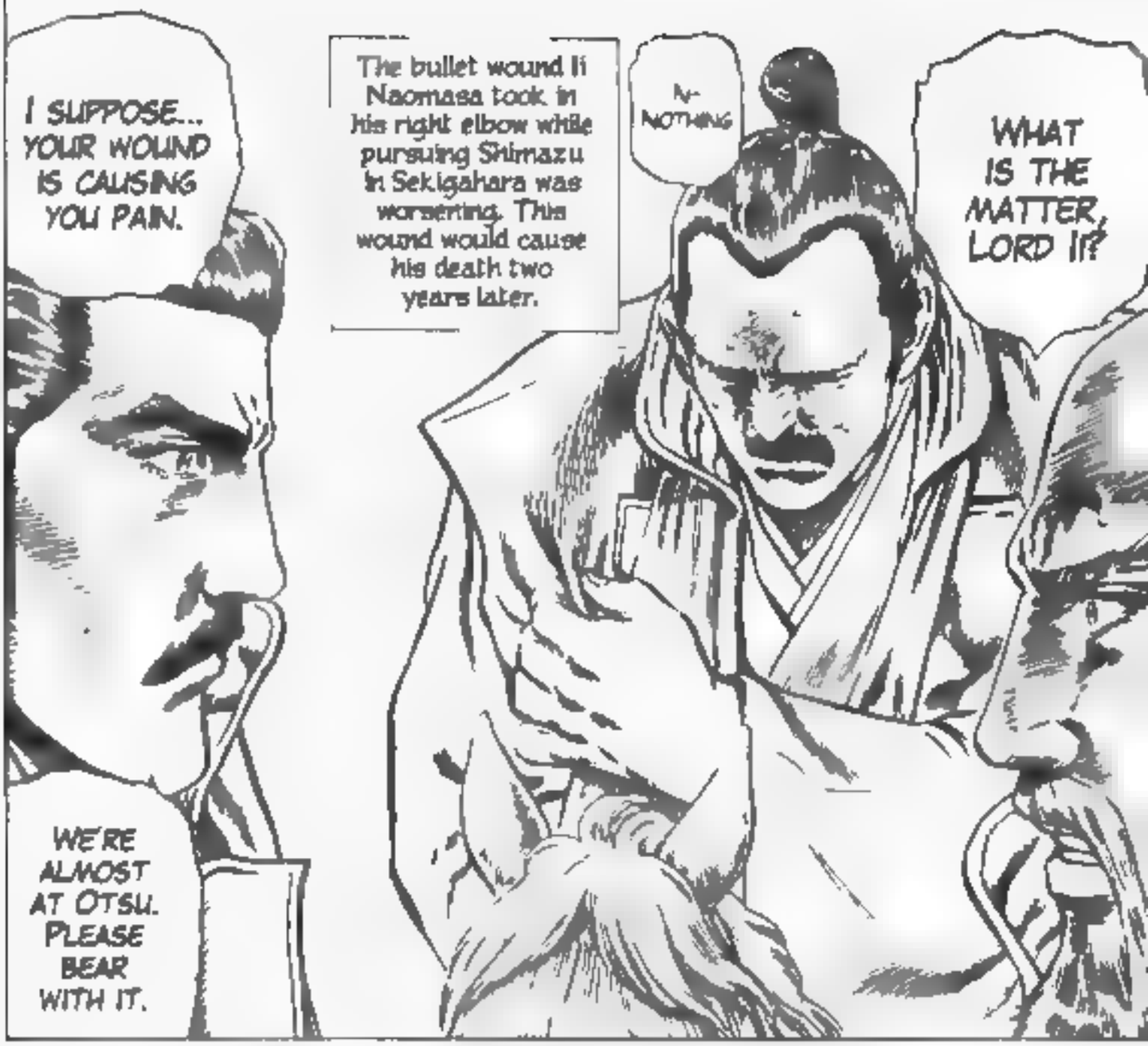
Chapter Twenty Five

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

THAT REALLY WAS THE CONFERENCE THAT DETERMINED THE TOKUGAWAS' FATE.
WELL, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT WAS QUITE FRIGHTENING...

Chapter 26: The Ina Incident!

!?
URGH ...
YOU NEVER CAN TELL WHAT HE'LL SAY NEXT.
YES ..
THEN FORGET TAKING THE NATION, OUR CLAN WOULD BE CRUSHED!
PUBLICLY ANNOUNCING OUR LORD'S DEATH ? IF WE HAD DONE AS LORD HIDETADA SUGGESTED,

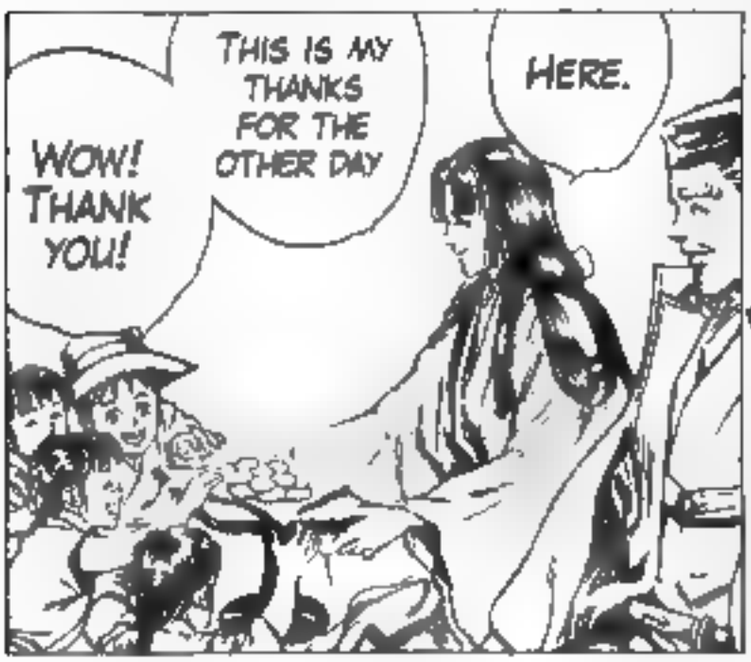

I SUPPOSE... YOUR WOUND IS CAUSING YOU PAIN.
WE'RE ALMOST AT OTSU. PLEASE BEAR WITH IT.
The bullet wound Ii Naomasa took in his right elbow while pursuing Shimazu in Sekigahara was worsening. This wound would cause his death two years later.
N- NOTHING
WHAT IS THE MATTER, LORD Ii?

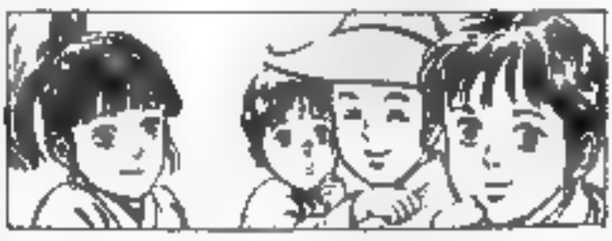
IS THE DECEPTION OF THE SHADOW WARRIOR FOLLOWING SEKIGAHARA.
WHAT PAINS ME SO MUCH MORE...
T THIS WOUND... IS NO-THING.
HEH.

W WE WERE FIGHTING ON THE SAME BATTLE-FIELD, SO WHY DID HE NOT SAY A WORD TO ME?

WE'RE A SINGLE STEP AWAY FROM REIGNING OVER THIS NATION. BEAR WITH IT, LORD II
HOWEVER... HAD WE TOLD YOU THEN AND THERE, THE EASTERN ARMY WOULD HAVE LOST.
I UNDER-STAND YOUR FEELINGS VERY WELL, LORD II.
NOBODY WOULD FIGHT TO THE FULLEST WITHOUT LORD IEYASU. THEY'D ALL RETREAT TO SAVE THEIR OWN HIDES.
!!
Otsu Castle
OOOH...
T... THAT JIROSABURO WHAT THE HELL IS HE THINKING?
DOO

THIS IS QUITE FUN!
HAHHA HAHA HAHA!

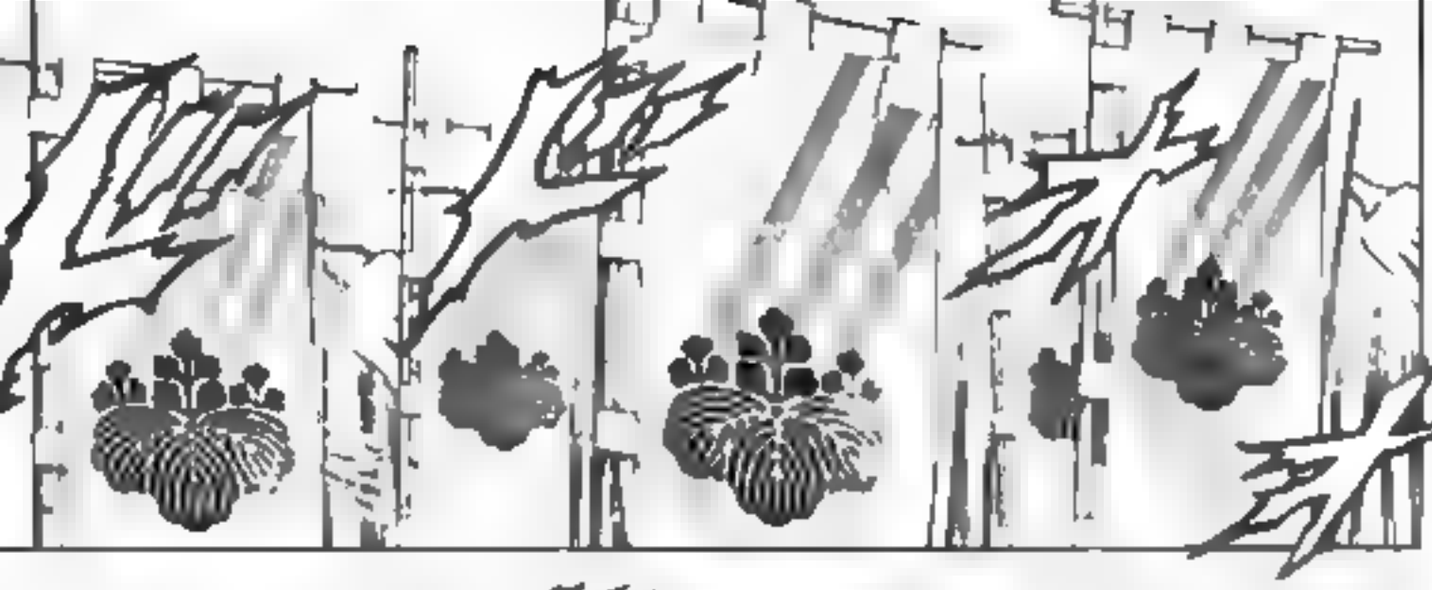

WOW! THANK YOU!
THIS IS MY THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY
HERE.



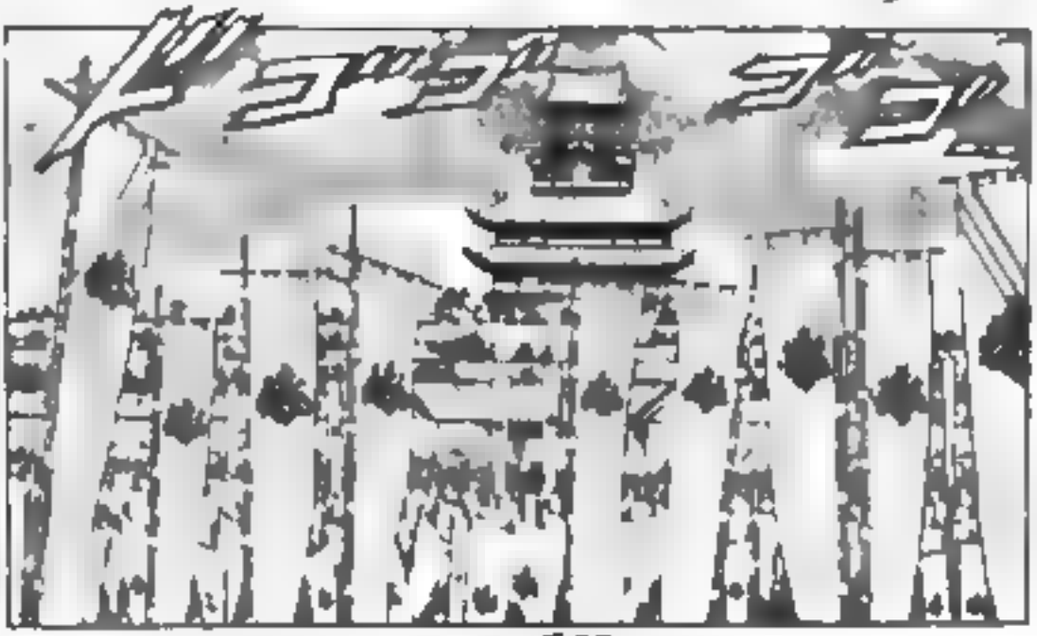
COME OVER HERE!

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY, SHADOW!
HAHAHA! WELL, I'LL BE! GO ON, EAT ALL YOU LIKE!
G-GREAT!?
YOU SAMURAI SURE ARE GREAT!
SO YOU LIVE IN THIS BIG CASTLE?
BBH!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT! WHY ON EARTH DID YOU LET ALL THESE VAGABONDS INTO THE CASTLE?
HMM? WHAT IS IT!?
...EVEN UNDERSTAND THAT THEY'RE DECIDING HOW TO DEAL WITH US IN KUSATSU RIGHT THIS MINUTE?
D-DO YOU ...
HEY... JIROSABURO...
HMMM ...?
JUST THROW THEM OUT ALREADY!
JUST RELAX AND ENJOY YOURSELF!
WHAT GOOD WILL THINKING ABOUT THAT DO NOW?
D... DON'T BE STUPID!

I-I DO
WHAT THEY CALL THE PUPPET DANCE... I-. IT'S STUPID, BUT FUN TO WATCH...
AHHHH... S... SO THAT'S ...
"STUPID" ..!?
PHEW ..
AHH
THINKING ABOUT IT WILL DO NO GOOD... I'VE LEFT ALL TO HIM, SO TRUST IN HIM.
!
MONNA ..
I AM BUT A SHADOW... I MUST SUBMIT TO HIDETADA'S JUDGMENT.
I-... IT'S AN EMER-GENCY!
M... MY LORD...
WHAT?
MASANOBU IS THE TOKUGAWA'S GREATEST TACTICIAN.
I'M SURE MASANOBU WILL MAKE THIS RIGHT.



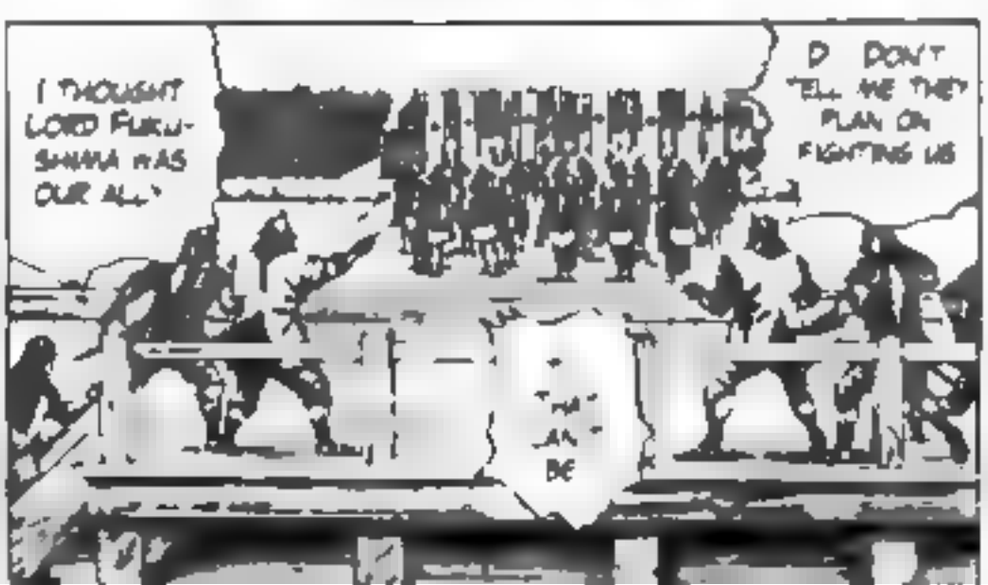
W... WHOSE ARMY IS THIS!?



W... WHY?

HUH?
WHAT? LORD FUKU-SHIMA?
M-MY LORD... ACCORDING TO OUR WATCHMAN, THIS IS THE ARMY OF LORD FUKUSHIMA MASANORI, NUMBERING TWO THOUSAND MEN!!

C-COULDN'T MEAN.
T THIS


I THOUGHT LORD FUKU-SHIMA WAS OUR ALLY
D DON'T TELL ME THEY PLAN ON FIGHTING US
BE

M... MY LORD! LORD FUKUSHIMA'S MESSENGER IS HERE TO SEE YOU!

!?

AHHHH! THAT'S IT! THEY FOUND OUT!

L... LORD FUKUSHIMA MAY HAVE LEARNED...

OF MY LORD'S DEATH...

AND SO HE'S RAISED THE BANNER OF REVOLT!

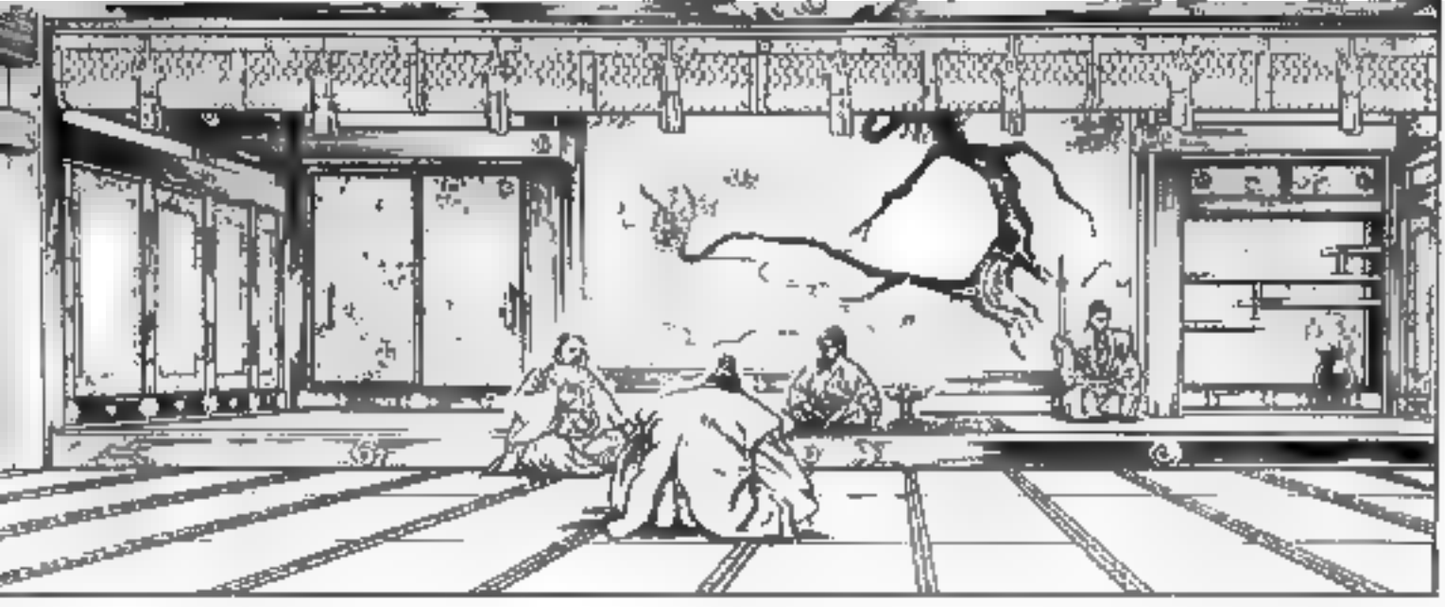
JUST WHAT

DOES LORD FUKUSHIMA HAVE TO SAY...?

Fukushima's actions, which so shocked Hirosaburo,

began on the previous day, September 20.

Osaka Castle



The great hero Mori Motonari's grandson, and a member of the Magistrates, more commonly known as the Five Elders, since Bunroku Year 4 (1595). At the Battle of Sekigahara, he answered the appeal of Ankokuji Ekei and became commander of the Western Army, entering Osaka Castle.

I SEE ...

SO THESE ARE THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR'S WORDS...

Mori Terumoto

Orphan of the Chief Adviser Hideyoshi, eight years old at the time. As the successor of the Toyotomi Administration, he was born in Hideyoshi's old age, and thus was heavily doted upon. Even after Hideyoshi left the world, he was raised deep inside Osaka Castle, surrounded by his mother, Lady Yodo, and the court ladies, in ignorance of the world.

YES, SIR!!

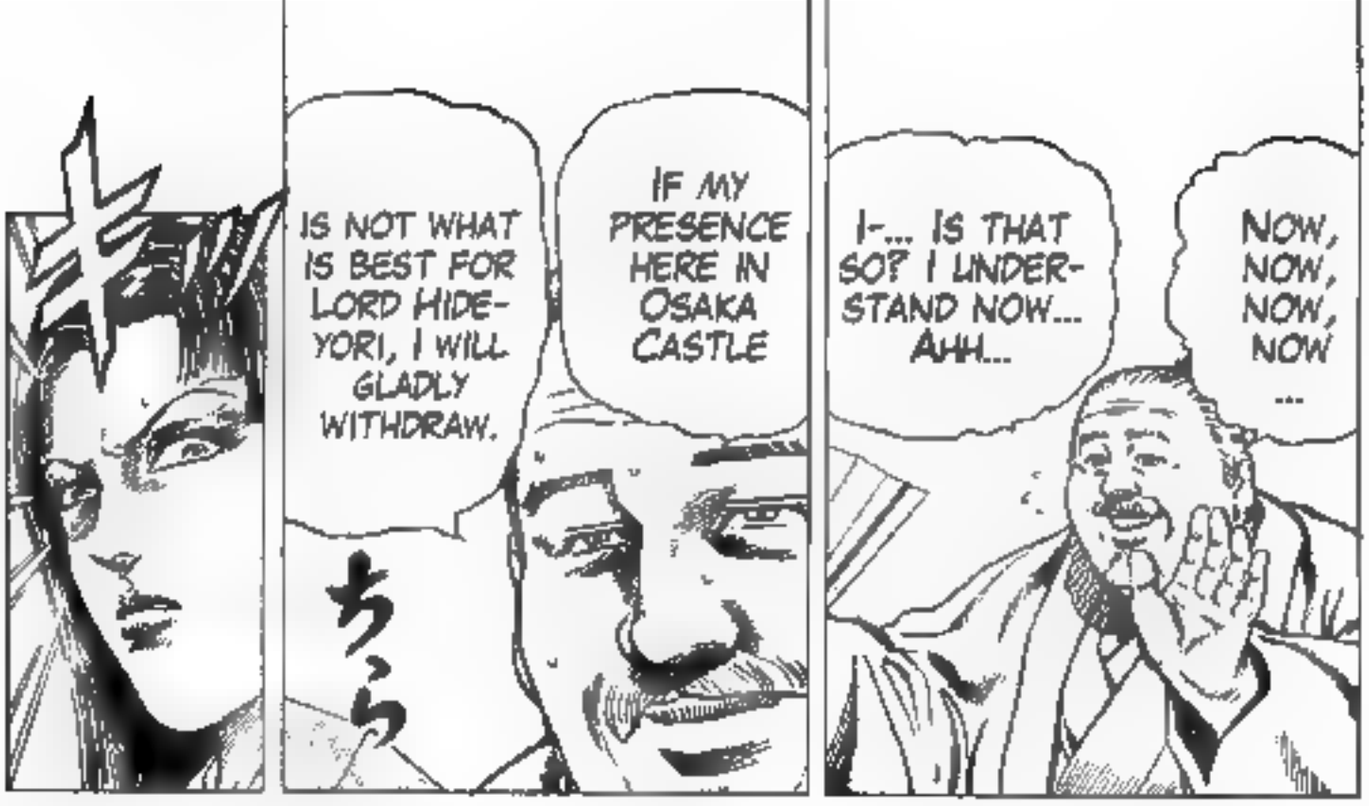
Fukushima Masanori

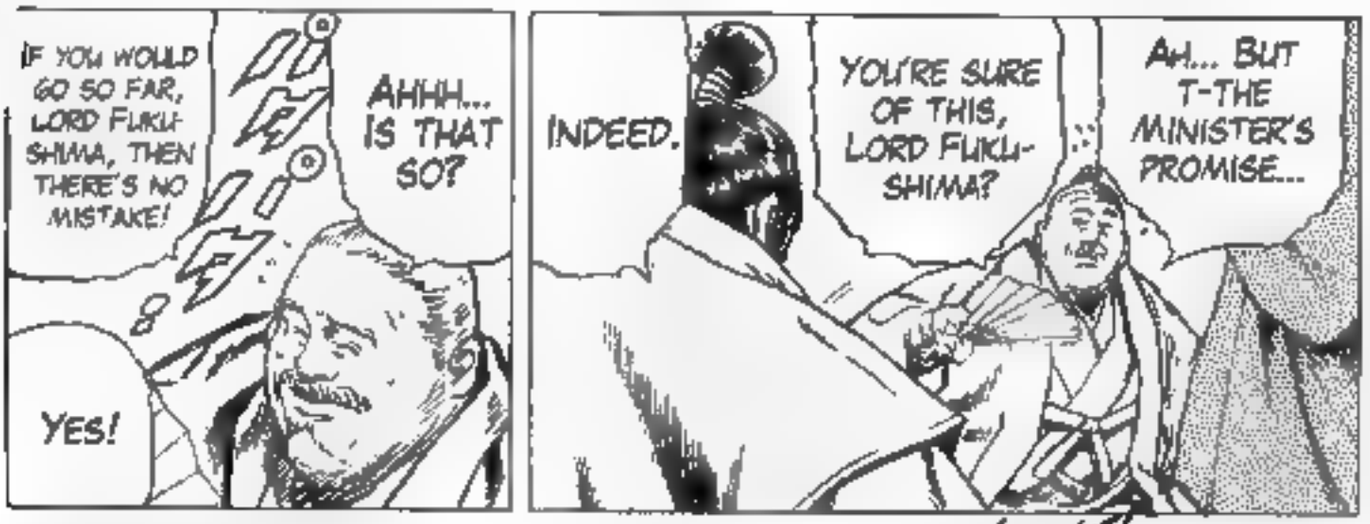
Toyotomi Hideyori

ちら?

Lady Yodo
THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR MUST BE PLANNING ON STRIPPING LORD HIDEYORI NAKED AND HAVING HIS WAY WITH HIM.
WHAT DOES HE PLAN TO DO BY DRIVING LORD MORI FROM OSAKA CASTLE?
SO THEN ...
AH! MOTHER !!
HMPF. I WONDER.
WE ASK THAT YOU CALMLY VACATE THIS CASTLE AND WITHDRAW YOUR FORCES, LORD MORI.
THE MINISTER HAS NO INTENTION OF HARMING LORD HIDEYORI.
THEREFORE
IIO
IIA
THE MINISTER DOES NOT ACCUSE LORD HIDEYORI OF ANY SIN!
THAT IS NOT TRUE! THIS PAST WAR WAS CAUSED BY ISHIDA MITSUNARI!

SIL-ENCE!
DO NOT BE FOOLED! THIS MAN HAS BETRAYED HIS EXCELLENCY AND BECOME TOKUGAWA'S DOG!
Y... YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT
Mori had ensured the security of the Mori Clan's fiefdom through a secret agreement via Honda Tadakatsu and Kuroda Nagamasa's letter
NOW THAT HE'S ARRANGING MARRIAGES BETWEEN THE LORDS AS HE PLEASES, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE WILL DO!
BESIDES, HAS NOT THE MINISTER BROKEN ALL OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S LAWS SINCE HE DIED?
IF THE MINISTER BREAKS THAT PROMISE, I AM PREPARED TO BATTLE HIM!!
I, MASANORI, SWEAR BY AMATERASU THAT HE HAS PROMISED NOT TO TOUCH LORD HIDEYORI!
YEAH, WHAT ABOUT IT!?
HE... SHOUTED... AT ME...
H... HE SHOUTED ...


IS NOT WHAT IS BEST FOR LORD HIDE-YORI, I WILL GLADLY WITHDRAW.
IF MY PRESENCE HERE IN OSAKA CASTLE
ちら
I-... IS THAT SO? I UNDER-STAND NOW... AHH...
NOW, NOW, NOW, NOW ...


IF YOU WOULD GO SO FAR, LORD FUKU-SHIMA, THEN THERE'S NO MISTAKE!
AHHH... IS THAT SO?
YES!
INDEED.
YOU'RE SURE OF THIS, LORD FUKU-SHIMA?
AH... BUT T-THE MINISTER'S PROMISE...

I DO NOT BE-LIEVE IT!
MOTHER!
EEK!
ﾌﾟﾙﾌﾟﾙﾙ!

NNNNGH...
WHAT A STUBBORN WOMAN.
.....
MASANORI.
MY MOTHER IS JUST WORRIED ABOUT ME. SHE HOLDS NO ILL INTENT. PLEASE FORGIVE HER.
DO NOT BE ANGRY.
Y... YOUNG LORD...
I TRUST YOU, MASANORI.
Y... YOUNG LORD...
THESE ARE DELICACIES FROM CHINA. THEY'RE VERY DELICIOUS.
W... WILL YOU EAT THESE...?

WHEN THE TIME COMES, I WANT YOU TO PROTECT HIDEYORI.
MASA-NORI, I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

At that time, Hideyoshi was a single retainer of Nobunaga, and frequent battles brought expenses with them. This made life hard, with little food to offer the children.
AHH, YOU'RE SO STUPID! THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO EAT THOSE OFF-ERINGS!
BLEEE EEEAA AGH!
About 25 years ago, Fukushima Masanori (Ichimatsu) and Kato Kiyomasa (Toranosuke), and the other members of Toyotomi's elite team known as the Seven Spears of Shizukatake were raised by Hideyoshi's legal wife, Nei (Kita-no-Mandokoro).
AAA AUGH! OW, OW, OW!
Y... YOUR EXCEL-LENCY...

HEE HEE HEE! SEE, I BROUGHT YOU SOME GIFTS!
WOW!
I'M SO HUNGRY ...
AHHH ...
Ichimatsu (later known as Fukushima Masanori)
Toranosuke (later known as Kato Kiyomasa)
AH!
HEY! I'M HOME!

HUH? WON'T YOU EAT THEM, FATHER?
MUNCH MUNCH
MMM! THEY'RE GOOD!
HWAA AAH...
SO MY STOMACH'S TOO FULL FOR ANY MORE.
AHH... WELL, I ALREADY HAD PLENTY TO EAT AT LORD NOBUNAGA'S...
NEI... I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD DIE...
YOU REALLY ARE STUPID, AREN'T YOU?
!?
TOH HA. TAH HA.
SOB
SNIFF
HEH HO
?

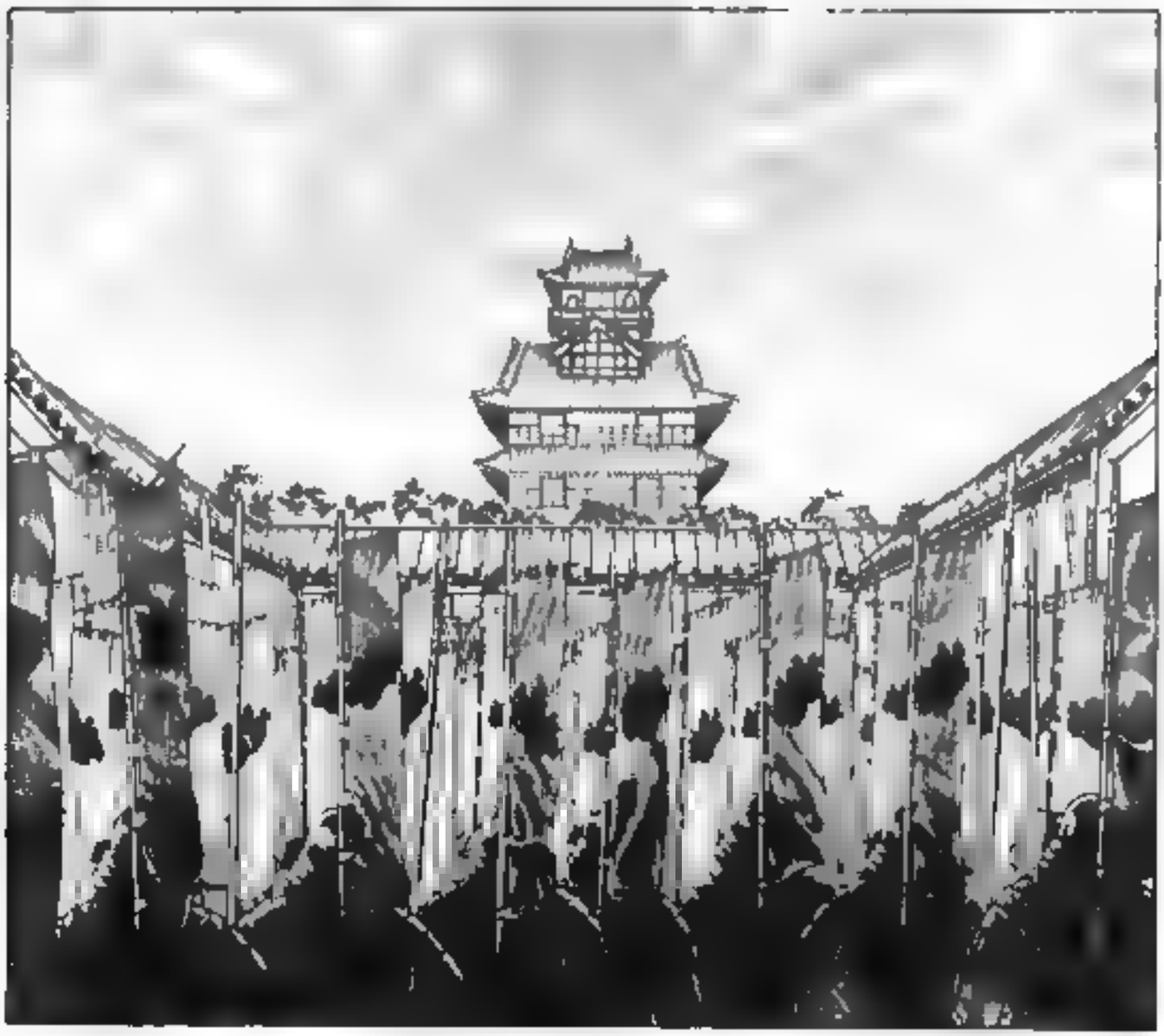
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THEIR GROWTH...
NO, IT'S FINE.
F-FATHER
OUR LORD GAVE YOU THAT BECAUSE HE SAW HOW HUNGRY YOU WERE, BUT YOU GAVE IT ALL AWAY
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR FAKE STOICISM.
THEY ARE MY TREASURE.
MY TREASURE, NEI...
SO I AM CERTAIN THEY'LL BECOME MY FIRST RETAINERS!
I... I WAS ORIGINALLY A PEASANT, SO THOUGH I NOW HAVE NAGASHIMA CASTLE, I DON'T HAVE ANY RETAINERS...
.....
AHHH... YOU'LL CHOKE IF YOU EAT THEM SO QUICKLY!
Y-YES
ARE THEY GOOD ...!?
WELL, MASANORI?

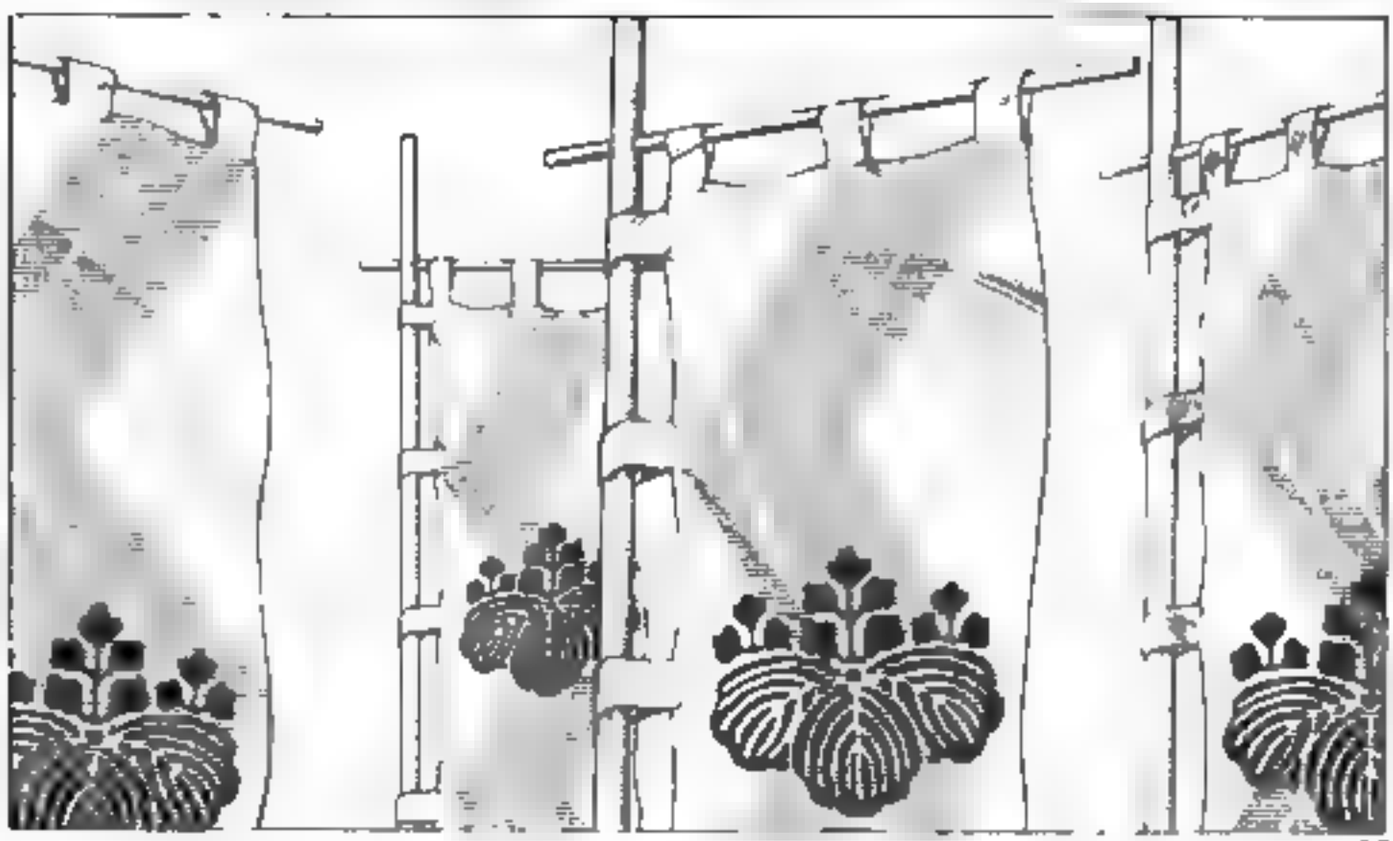
HOW COULD I HAVE DONE THIS?
HAH HA ...
SEE, WHAT DID I TELL YOU?
COUGH COUGH
Kyoto
IS THAT SO? I TRULY THANK YOU, LORD MORI.
ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE, IF THE MINISTER INTENDS NO HARM UPON LORD HIDEYORI, I WILL SAVE YOUR FACE AND THINK IT OVER.
THERE'S BEEN A DISASTER IN KYOTO! RETURN AT ONCE!
M... MY LORD!
S... SAKUMA !?
HUH !?

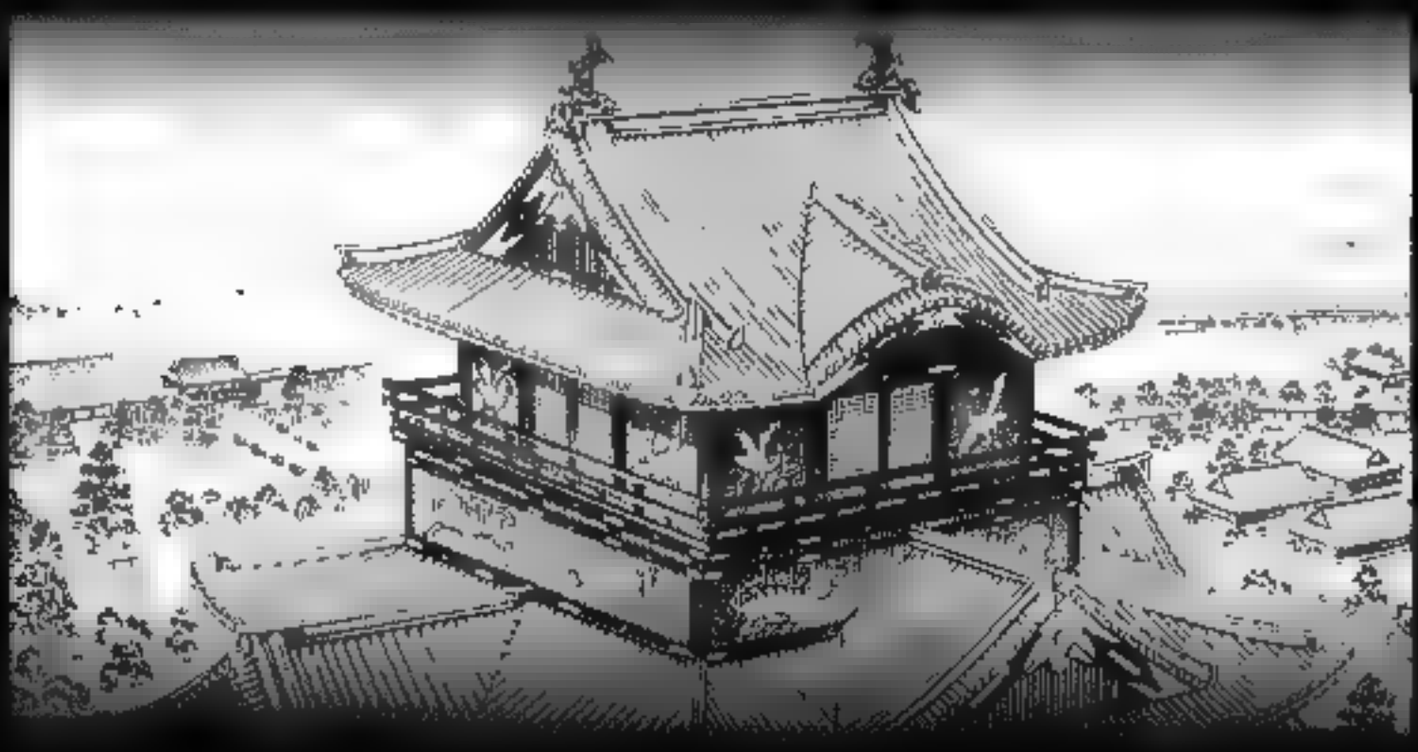
S... SIR SAKUMA WAS TRYING TO ENTER KYOTO UPON YOUR ORDERS.
BUT THE TOKUGAWA HAD SET UP A CHECKING STATION IN YAMASHINA, AND THE GUARDS OF INA AKITSUNA TOLD HIM HE WAS BANNED FROM PASSING, AND A FIGHT BROKE OUT
WHAT? TOKUGAWA BANNED HIM FROM ENTERING KYOTO!?
W... WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
I... I AM TRULY SORRY ABOUT THIS...
B... BEFORE HE DIED, HE ASKED YOU TO FORGIVE HIM FOR BEING SO COWARDLY..
S... SAKUMA !!
BUT IN THE END, HE COULDN'T GET PAST THEM...
HE WAS BEATEN BY THE TOKUGAWA FOOT SOLDIERS WITH CLUBS, UNTIL HE RELUCTANTLY RETURNED.
S. SIR SAKUMA FELT SHAME AS A SAMURAI THAT HE WAS BEATEN BY FOOT SOLDIERS, WHICH MEANT HE WAS STAINING YOUR NAME.
HE FELL ON HIS SWORD UPON RETURNING.
.....

D... DAMN YOU, MINISTER! DEPENDING ON YOUR RESPONSE, I WILL MAKE YOU PAY!
SEND A MESSENGER TO TOKUGAWA AT ONCE!
HOW DARE HE BAN PASSAGE! AS IF HE ALREADY RULED THE NATION!
S... SAKUMA! I WILL CERTAINLY AVENGE YOU!
I WILL TAKE INA'S HEAD AND OFFER IT TO THEE!

Just as Hidetada's menace seemed to have passed, a new trial was awaiting the Shadow.
This was the head of Ina Akitsuna.
Fukushima Masanori was unsure of whether Ieyasu would honor his contract with Mori and Hideyori in Osaka Castle, and decided to make a demand to test Ieyasu.







Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Twenty Six

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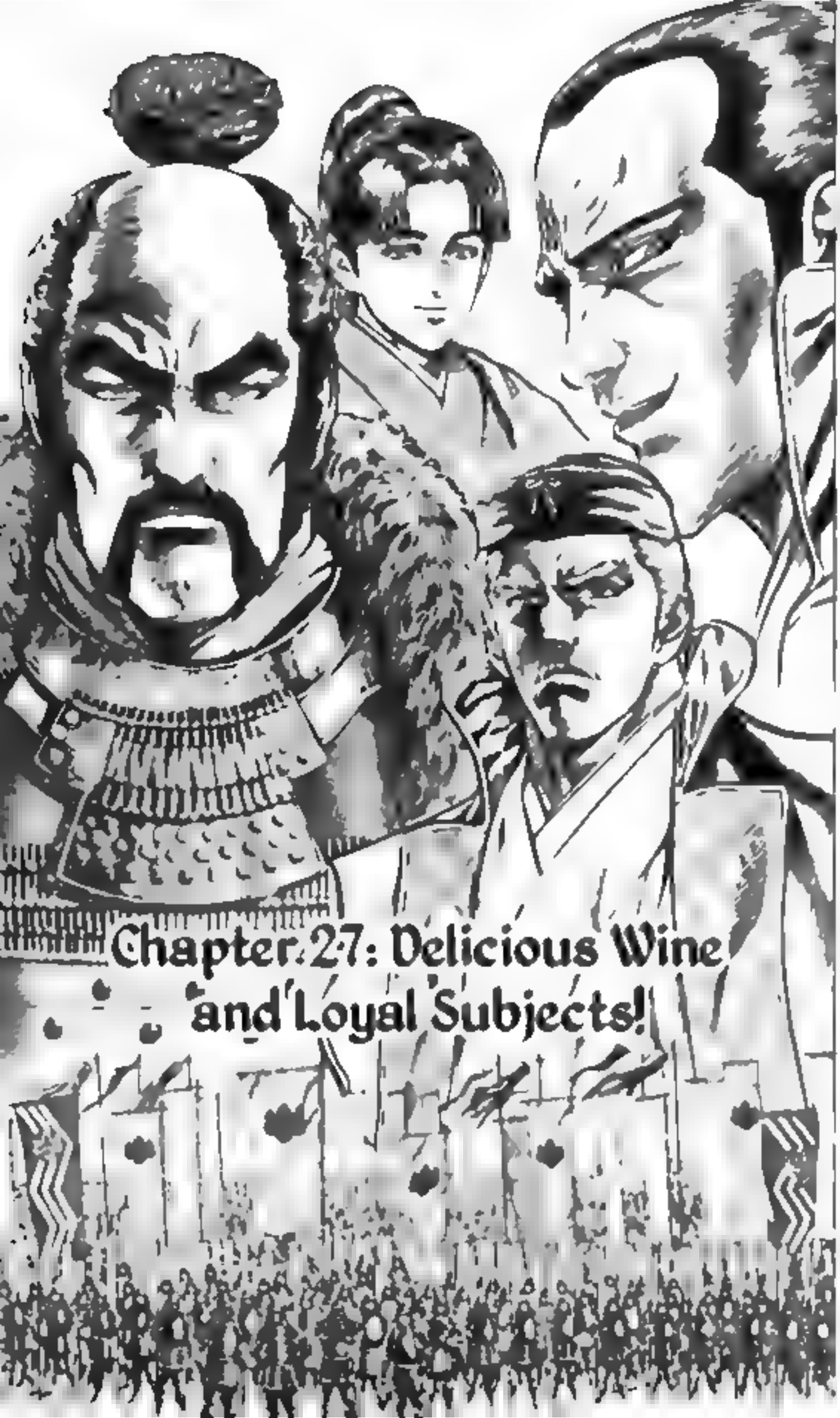
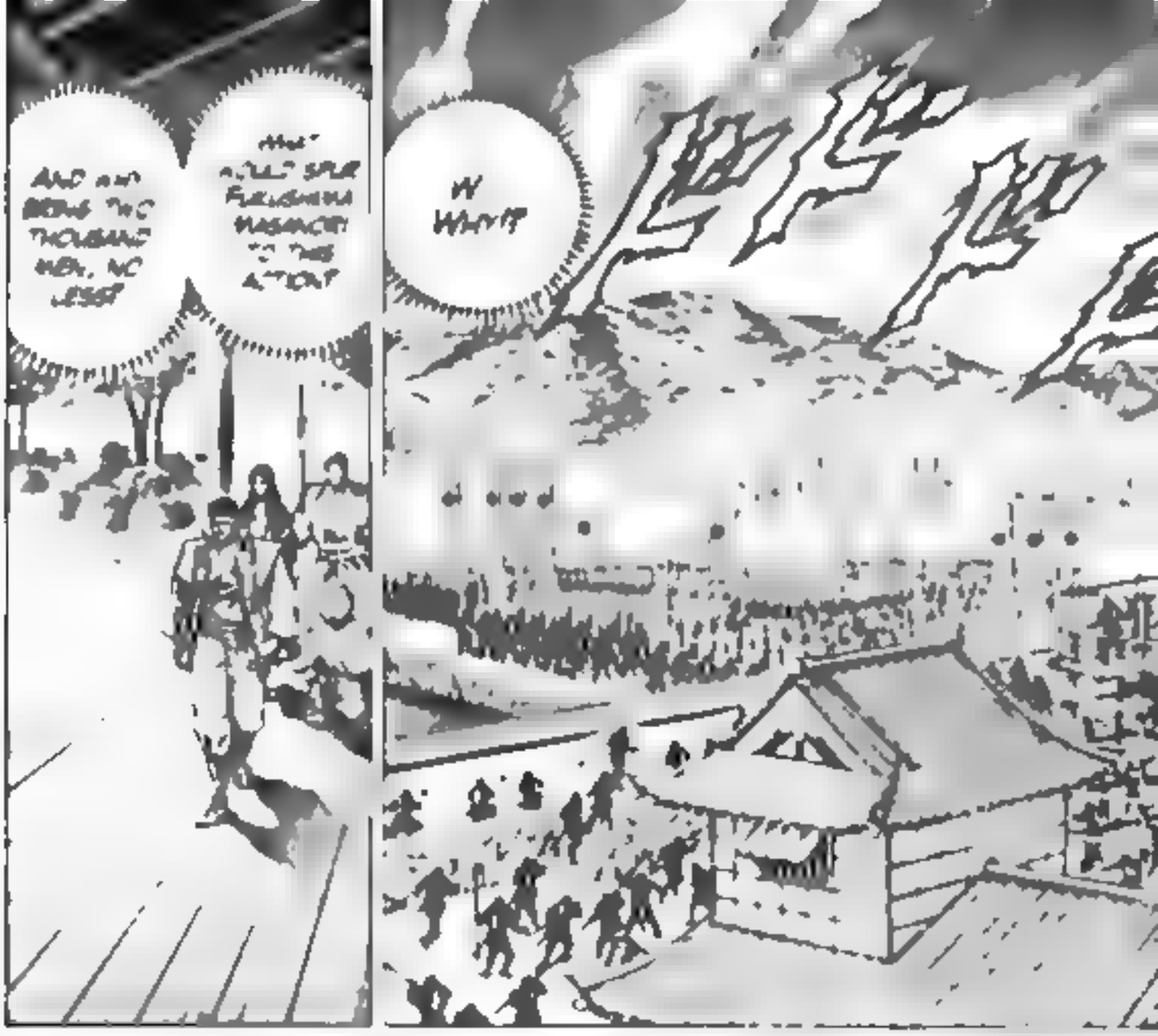
Edited by Akromata



Chapter 27: Delicious Wine and Loyal Subjects!


AND AM BEING TWO THOUSAND MEN, NO LESS?
WHAT WOULD SPUR FUKUSHIMA MASANORI TO THIS ACTION?
W WHAT?

I SUPPOSE
HE MUST HAVE DISCOVERED MY SECRET!!!

IF HE'S UNCOVERED BYAKU'S DEATH, MY REASON HE HAS TO REMAIN WITH TOKUGAWA IS GONE. THIS IS THE ONLY REASON I CAN THINK OF THAT HE WOULD FIGHT FOR ME ON OSAKA'S SIDE.
FUKUSHIMA WAS ORIGINALLY A TOYO-TOMI GENERAL.

J... JIROSA-BURO.
ON TOP OF THAT, YAHACHIRO AND TADAKATSU AREN'T HERE NOW
!
EVERY-ONE

I'LL BE FINE ..
FOR NOW, I'LL SEE WHAT FUKUSHIMA HAS TO SAY.
YES!
LET'S GO, MONNA!
HANG IN THERE!
THIS MOMENT IS VITAL FOR TOKUGAWA'S FUTURE!
I HIT MY TEETH ...
MY TEETH ...
WAB BH!

YOU'VE BROUGHT A MASSIVE ARMY TO OUR GATES. WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US?
.....
OOOH. T-THEY FOUND OUT, ALRIGHT
!
YOU SHOULD BE FULLY AWARE OF OUR BUSINESS, LORD TOKUGAWA
NOW THIS IS STRANGE.

?
AREE EEE
!?
SO
HE IS ANGERED THAT I HAVE DECEIVED HIM?
AHHHH HHHH
AHHHH

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
!?
HUU UUUU UUH?

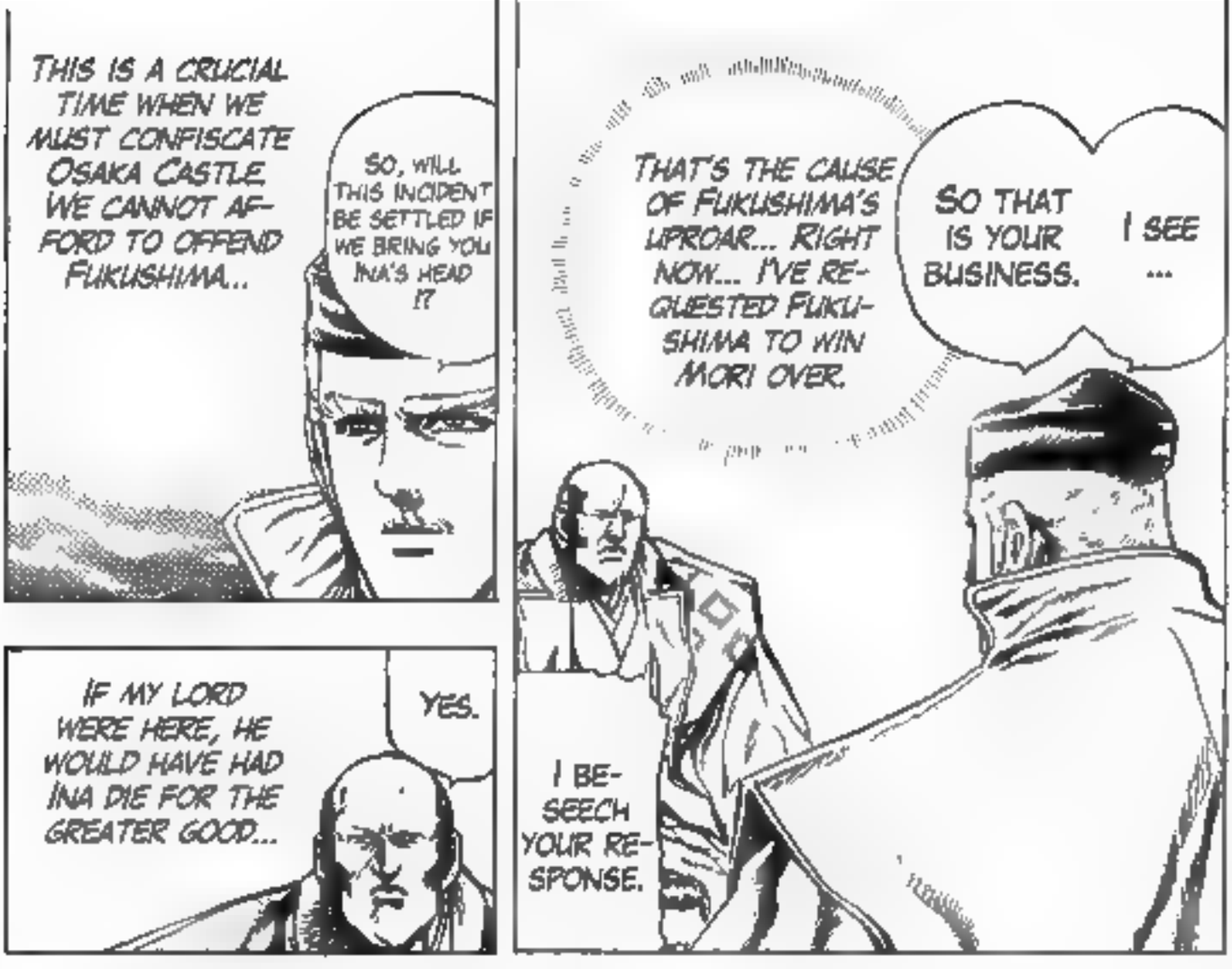
WE HAVE BUT ONE DEMAND!
W...
YOU MEAN ...

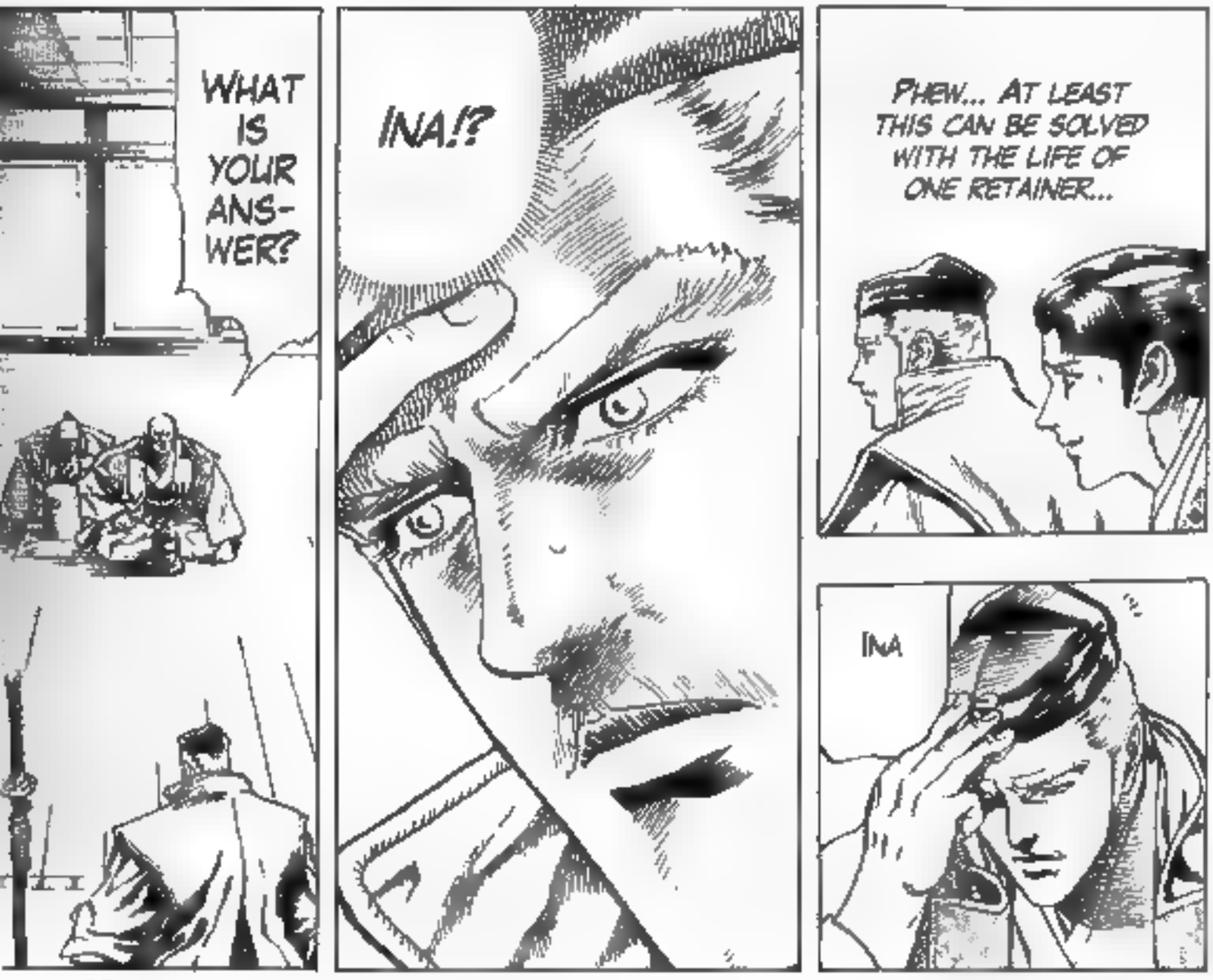
BRING US INA AKI-TSUNA'S HEAD...
IN EX-CHANGE FOR HIS!!

AND HE FELL ON HIS SWORD TO APOLOGIZE TO HIS LORD FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO FULFILL HIS ORDERS.
BUT HE WAS STOPPED BY SERVANTS OF INA AKITSUNA, AND WAS EVEN ASSAULTED

YESTERDAY, HE PASSED THROUGH THE CHECKING STATION AT YAMA-SHINA, TO ENTER KYOTO ON OUR LORD'S ORDERS.
THIS HEAD BELONGED TO A RETAINER OF THE FUKUSHIMA NAMED SAKUMA.

THEY DIDN'T UNCOVER LORD IEYASU'S FATE...
W... WE WERE WRONG...
BY ORDER OF MY LORD FUKUSHIMA MASANORI,
I ASK YOU TO BRING INA AKITSUNA'S HEAD IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS!
ABOUT MY LORD'S ORDER !!
HOW DARE A MERE PAGE SAY "THAT'S ALL IT WAS"...
S... SO THAT'S ALL IT WAS?
SIGH ..
I... I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE ...
OH... UM... W WELL
AHH !!


THIS IS A CRUCIAL TIME WHEN WE MUST CONFISCATE OSAKA CASTLE. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO OFFEND FUKUSHIMA..
SO, WILL THIS INCIDENT BE SETTLED IF WE BRING YOU INA'S HEAD !?
THAT'S THE CAUSE OF FUKUSHIMA'S UPROAR... RIGHT NOW... I'VE REQUESTED FUKUSHIMA TO WIN MORI OVER.
SO THAT IS YOUR BUSINESS.
I SEE ...
I BESEECH YOUR RESPONSE.
IF MY LORD WERE HERE, HE WOULD HAVE HAD INA DIE FOR THE GREATER GOOD...
YES.

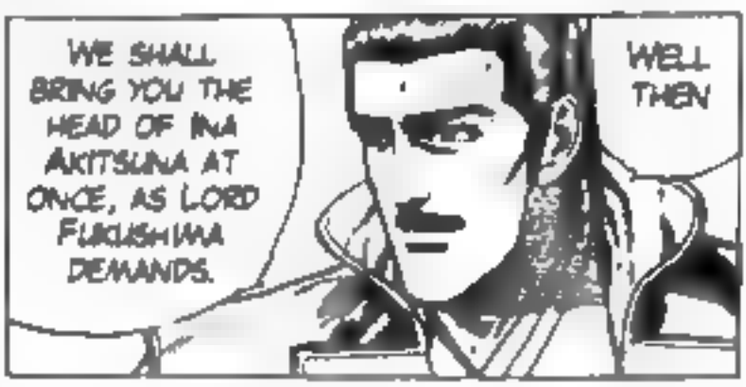

WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?
INA!?
PHEW... AT LEAST THIS CAN BE SOLVED WITH THE LIFE OF ONE RETAINER...
INA

WHAT IS FUKUSHIMA'S ARMY DOING HERE!?
MY LORD !!
TADAKATSU!! YAHACHIRO!!
W... WHAT'S THE MEAN-ING OF THIS!?

WAIT A SECOND.
NO.

I AM VERY RELIEVED TO HEAR THIS!
YES!
I WILL RETURN AT ONCE, AND INFORM MY LORD

……
I SEE. I UNDERSTAND NOW


WE SHALL BRING YOU THE HEAD OF INA AKITSUNA AT ONCE, AS LORD FUKUSHIMA DEMANDS.
WELL THEN

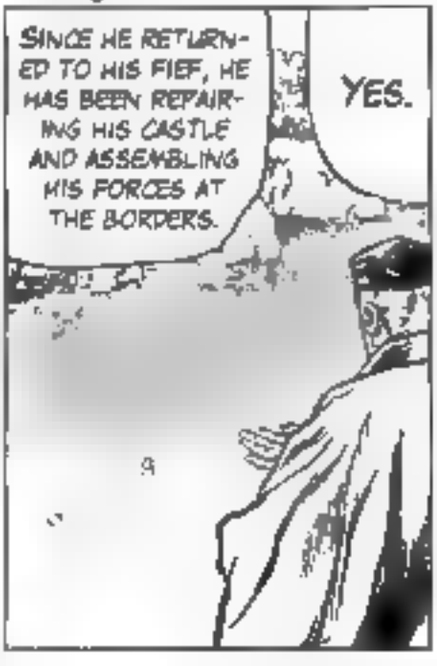
!?
HUH?
EH?

INA AKITSUNA IS NOT A MAN WHO WOULD CAUSE SUCH VIOLENCE.
I FIND THIS INCIDENT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE.

I WILL GO TO AKITSUNA HIMSELF
AND CONFIRM THE VERACITY OF THIS INCIDENT. AWAIT MY RESPONSE UNTIL THEN.
W... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
HUH?

WE NOW KNOW YOUR BUSINESS... NOW LEAVE AT ONCE!!
A LOYAL SUBJECT'S DEATH IS NO LESS GRAVE IN OUR CLAN!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF THE DEATH OF THE FUKUSHIMA CLAN'S LOYAL SUBJECT?
H... HOW DARE YOU BE SO CASUAL WHEN ONE OF OUR RETAINERS LIES DEAD..
WHAT IS JIROSABURO SAYING?
DO?

YEAH... I KNOW.
OUR LORD WOULD HAVE TAKEN AKITSUNA'S HEAD
THEN WHY DID YOU...?
OUR LORD... WOULD CERTAINLY NOT HAVE DONE THIS!!
YOU KNOW THAT WE NEED FUKUSHIMA'S COOPERATION RIGHT NOW!
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING!?
April, Keicho year 5 (1600)
Five months before the Battle of Sekigahara


SINCE HE RETURNED TO HIS FIEF, HE HAS BEEN REPAIRING HIS CASTLE AND ASSEMBLING HIS FORCES AT THE BORDERS.
YES.

I HEAR YOU ARE SENDING LORD UESUGI A LETTER OF QUESTIONING?
MY LORD ...

WE HAVE FINALLY FOUND A PRETEXT FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF AIZU..
WE CAN ACCUSE LORD UESUGI OF TREASON SHOULD THIS CONTINUE..

FINALLY ..
YES.

I HAVE ALREADY DECIDED WHO TO SEND!
NO ...
This rebuke of Jesugi was merely a pretext to rouse Mitsunari, and no more than an excuse. Naturally, there would be no guarantee that the messenger would return alive.
BUT YOU ARE WORRIED OVER WHO YOU WILL SEND TO AIZU AS A MESSENGER?
.....
INA AKITSUNA.
WHAT IS HIS NAME?
THE INA CLAN IS A VALIANT ONE. EVERY LORD, FROM FIRST TO FOURTH GENERATION, HAS PERISHED IN BATTLE.
YES.
LORD AKITSUNA ...?
THIS IS SOMETHING ONLY A MAN AS GREAT AS AKITSUNA CAN DO
BUT NO ONE ELSE CAN FULFILL THIS ROLE...
TO FIGHT FOR THE TOKUGAWA WITH HIS LIFE ON THE LINE. I DON'T WANT HIM TO DIE...
AS THE FIFTH LORD OF THE CLAN, AKITSUNA IS ALWAYS READY

I MUST SACRIFICE ANOTHER PRECIOUS RETAINER TO CLAIM THE NATION.
AHHH, I DRANK SO MUCH, I CAN'T HOLD ANY MORE...
PHWEE EEEH ...
I AM GLAD YOU LIKE IT.
AHHH! SO THIS IS THE WINE OF NADA THAT I HAVE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT! IT REALLY IS GOOD!
NOW THEN
PHEW I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL SAY TO THE OTHER RETAINERS FOR ENJOYING THIS TREAT!
WELL, THAT WAS DELICIOUS! I JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF GOOD WINE!

MAY I ASK WHAT YOU HAVE SUMMONED ME FOR?
スッ
COULD THIS BE ABOUT LORD UESUGI?
YES, MY LORD.
!
!
YOU'VE ALREADY GUESSED ?
I HAVE HEARD THAT THE LAND OF AIZU HAS GOOD WINE.
IF I CAN TASTE OF THIS WINE BEFORE I DIE, I WILL DIE A HAPPY MAN.
YOU MAY NOT RETURN FROM THIS MISSION ALIVE.
INA ...
YES ...

He returned with the famous letter known as the "Naoe Letter", which was the Uesugis' declaration of war. Now, Ieyasu had gained a pretext to suppress Aizu.

INA!

But Ina Akitsuna fulfilled his role as a messenger, and returned alive.

THE TRUTH IS, THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY WARS SINCE THE SUPPRESSION OF ODAWARA, WHICH I SURVIVED, SO I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER I COULD DIE HONORABLY

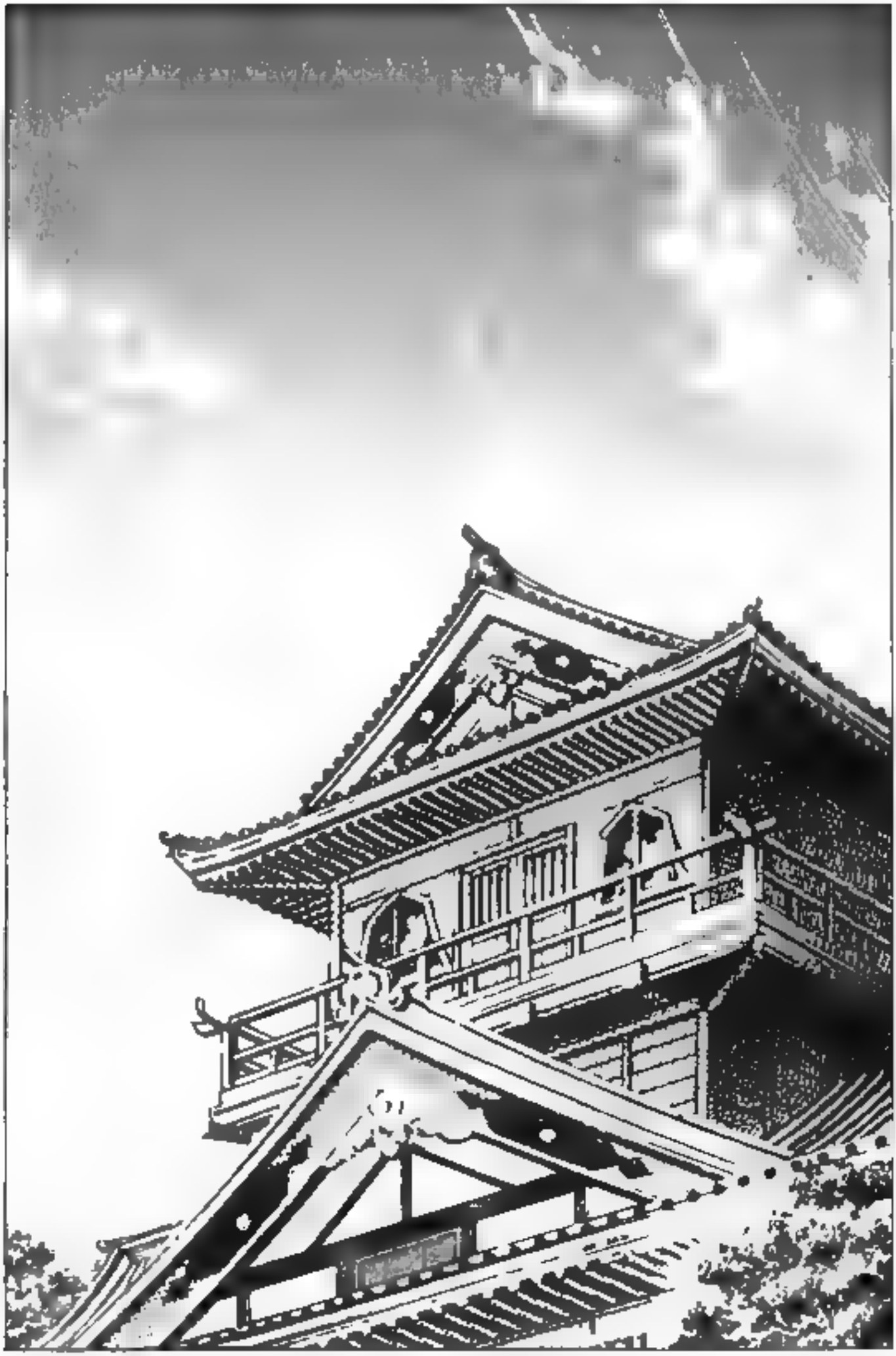
AND AS THE LORD OF THE INA CLAN, IT WOULD BE A DISGRACE IF I DID NOT DIE LIKE MY ANCESTORS

I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE!

I SURVIVED AGAIN!

I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT LORD AKITSUNA

WOULD COMMIT SUCH VIOLENCE WITHOUT A REASON.



Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Twenty Seven

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

LORD INA AKITSUNA ...
WAS MY FELLOW RETAINER ...
LORD INA AKITSUNA HAD BEEN LOYAL TO OUR LORD FOR MANY YEARS...
HE WAS A FAITHFUL SUBJECT, EVER OBEDIENT TO MY LORD'S ORDERS.
IS THERE GONNA BE A WAR?
W WHAT'S GOING ON??
TELL SUCH A MAN TO DISEMBOWEL HIMSELF
I COULD NEVER ...
.....

Chapter 28: Iga Pass... The Return of Tears!

Chapter 28: Iga Pass... The Return of Tears!

WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT YOUR PLEDGE TO UNITE THE NATION UNDER THE TOKUGAWA AND BUILD A PEACEFUL WORLD?
.....!!
WHAT ABOUT OUR LORD'S DREAM?
T... THAT'S RIGHT!!
ENOUGH.
SO, JIROSABURO.
!
BUT I JUST CAN'T DO IT.
I UNDERSTAND FULL WELL ...
I SAID, I UNDERSTAND!
WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT OUR LORD'S DREAM!?
HUH!?
D... DAMN YOU!!
I WAS QUITE FLUMMOXED TO SEE JIROSABURO'S WORRY OVER A MERE RETAINER
KAJI, WHO WAS RAISED IN THE WORLD OF THE SAMURAI.
I JUST CAN'T CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM.

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND!? YOUR WORDS WILL DETERMINE HOW FUKUSHIMA MASANORI REACTS! AND IF FUKUSHIMA SIDES WITH OSAKA, THE TOKUGAWA WILL BE CRUSHED!
!?
!?
WHY CAN'T YOU KILL JUST ONE RETAINER!?
.....
HUH !?
!?
SOMEBODY, HELP !!
OTHERWISE, I WILL TELL EVERYONE, "THIS IS AN IMPOSTER"!
I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO LAY ANOTHER HAND ON JIROSABURO
W-
WHAT ARE YOU !?

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
WHAT IS IT, MY LADY!?
HUH!?
LISTEN ...
PREPARE IT AT ONCE.
THE LORD DESIRES WINE.
AHH. THIS CAN'T BE HAP-PENING

PHEW ...
LET ME ASK YOU THIS.
WAS YOUR LORD SUCH A MAN THAT HE WOULD POINTLESSLY KILL ONE OR TWO RETAINERS?!
W... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY?
LADY KAJI, WASN'T THAT A LITTLE.
I CAN REVEAL IT WHENEVER I WISH. I AM SERIOUS.
HUH!?

And in March of that year, when the Takeda clan was eliminated, Nobunaga had ordered Ieyasu to kill every last surviving one of Takeda's retainers, but he secretly hid them and saved them from death. There were 895 of them.
GGH!!
In fact, during the Ikko Uprising of Mikawa, which first caused Yahachiro and Ieyasu to separate, Ieyasu forgave most of the retainers that betrayed him and welcomed them back.

WAIT.
ACTIONS WERE.
B... BUT..
JIROSABURO'S.
S.. SHE MAY HAVE REASON...
THIS IS A CRUCIAL MOMENT FOR THE TOKUGAWA.
WHAT GOOD WILL COME OF FIGHTING AMONGST OURSELVES?

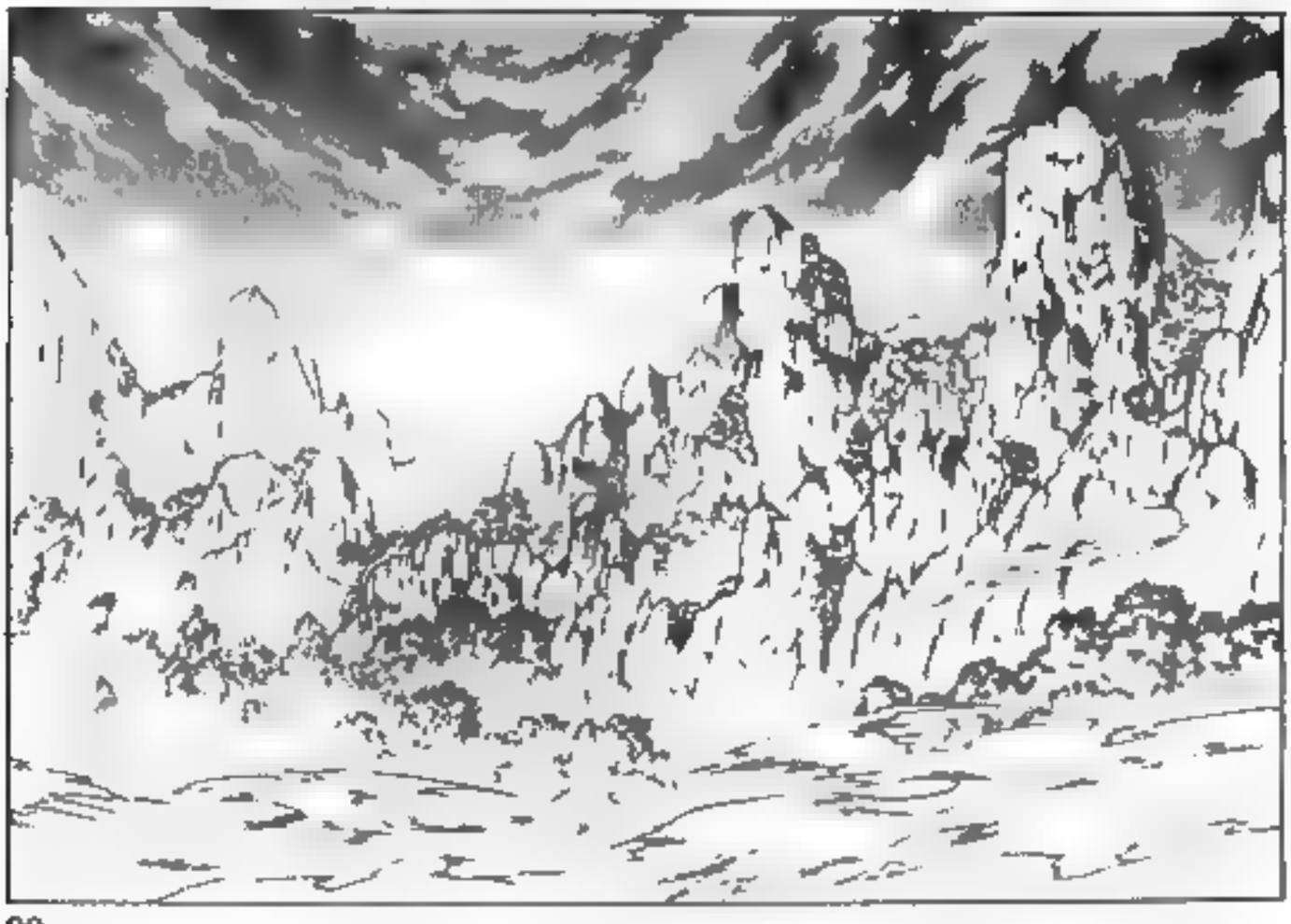
Tensho year 10 (1583)
Having been chased from base to base of the Ikko Uprising, from Nagashima of Ise to Honganji Temple of Ishiyama, Yaichiro stayed at the home of his fellow believer, Touge Sannojo, of Touge (currently Mie Prefecture, Ayama District, Iga Village)
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
NOBUNAGA ALL BUT RULES THIS NATION.
WE'RE DONE FOR
NOT EVEN FIVE HUNDRED REMAIN.
AS FOR THE IGA NINJA OF THIS LAND
By Nobunaga's root-cutting strategy.
OUR MANY THOUSANDS OF ALLIES HAVE BEEN EXTERMINATED
UHHH...
the Ikko sect's temples had all been razed. They were truly on the verge of destruction.

Oda Nobunaga was attacked by Akechi Mitsuhide at Honno Temple and fell on his sword.
But in June of Tensho year 10 (1582), the situation changed.
I WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITH MY LORD.
IT'S BEEN 18 YEARS SINCE I LEFT MIKAWA. WHAT HAVE I BEEN FIGHTING FOR ?
BUT HOW CAN I FACE HIM NOW?
COME BACK WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER.
YOU ARE MY FRIEND
THE ODAS ARMIES ACROSS THE NATION ARE IN DISARRAY, AND THE CITY OF KYOTO IS IN AN UPROAR
YES.
WHO HAD JUST ENTERED KYOTO WITH HIS RETINUE, HAD PLANNED HIS ESCAPE FROM MIKAWA, AND IS EN ROUTE HERE!
ONE MORE THING. TOKUGAWA IEYASU,
OHH...
I-... IS DEAD?
N... NOBU-NAGA...
W... WHAT !?

ISN'T IEYASU THAT ABOMINABLE ODA'S ALLY..?
I.... IEYASU?!
WITH NOBUNAGA DEAD, IEYASU IS THE ONLY TARGET FOR OUR VENGEANCE!
THAT'S RIGHT!
W... WHAT?
SLAY THE BLASPHEMER! KILL IEYASU!!
Y... YEAH, EXPLAIN YOURSELF!
THAT'S RIGHT!
D-DO NOT KILL IEYASU?
MAY I ASK WHY!?

S... SERVED IEYASU!?
W... WHAT ?
I...
ONCE SERVED LORD IEYASU.
HUH !?
LORD IEYASU ...
IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE THE IKKO SECT
S. SIR YAHACHIRO, YOU.
UNLIKE NOBUNAGA, MY LORD DOES NOT SLAY PEOPLE WITHOUT REASON.
YES. I WILL HAVE HIM PROMISE THAT IF WE AID HIM.
THEN HE WILL RESTORE THE TEMPLES OF THE IKKO SECT!
HUH? HE IS!?
IF I TALK TO LORD IEYASU, IT WILL BE DONE !!
YES!!
T.. T THE TEMPLES THAT WE LOST..
W WILL BE RE-BUILT ?
SIR YAHA-CHIRO

HE'S RIGHT I HAVE NO GUARANTEE THAT LORD IEYASU HAS NOT CHANGED THESE PAST EIGHTEEN YEARS.
I CAN'T TRUST YOU.
REALLY THINK THAT IEYASU WILL ACCEPT THOSE CONDITIONS?
DO YOU...
SIR SANNO-JO...
NOW, LET US HURRY
IF WE CAN JUST CROSS KABUTO
HEH.
I KNEW IT
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HOW FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS, HAVE YOU?
WELL



HUH !?
ドゴゴゴゴ
NNGH!!
W... WHEN DID THEY

HUH !?
HYA HAAA AH!

HUH!?

HEHE HE...

I CAN'T OFFER MUCH, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT THIS MONEY AND LET US PASS!
WE ARE THE RETINUE OF LORD TOKUGAWA IEYASU OF MIKAWA!
Chuugi Shiro iro

WELL, THEN ...
Ieyasu had made it safely this far because of the gold Chaya Shirojiro, a merchant of Tokyo, had given away. But now that gold would work against them.
OHHH ...
WOW!
HMM...? ARE YOU STILL UNSATISFIED?
THAT REALLY WASN'T MUCH AT ALL...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE.
AND IF WE BRING YOUR GENERAL'S HEAD TO AKECHI MITSUHIDE, HE'LL REWARD US HANDSOMELY!
IF WE KILL YOU ALL, WE GET ALL YER GOLD!
YEAH, I'M UNSATISFIED ...
GET 'EM!
I, TADAKATSU, SHALL DEFEND YOUR LIFE, MY LORD
SO THIS IS IT.

HUH?
HEH
GEEH!
GBEH!
BG
AH!
MY LORD, SOMEONE'S SHOOTING THEM!!
HUH!?
EH!?
.....!?
WHO COULD IT BE!?
I... I DON'T KNOW!

WAIT !!
WHERE ARE THEY AFTER OUR MONEY, TOO ?

A-AND AIN'T SO MANY OF THEM!!
OOOH

WHO IS YOUR LEADER? COME ON OUT!!
WE WILL HEAR YOUR DE-MANDS!
!?

Y... YAHA-CHIRO? T... THERE'S NO MISTAKE... YOU ARE YAHACHIRO!

B... BUT WILL HE HEAR OUR DEMANDS? IF HE DOES NOT, HE WILL DIE.
I'M GLAD I MADE IT IN TIME.
M... MY LORD ...

IT HAS BEEN SO
M... MY LORD...

YAHA-CHIRO !?
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME BACK...
W-WHY?
!!

At that moment, Yahachiro realized that Ieyasu still considered him a friend.
YOU FOOL ...
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME?
YAHA-CHIRO ...
M... MY LORD!!
FOR NOW, LET US CALL LORD AKITSUNA. WE'LL DECIDE AFTER THAT
!
HUH!?
!
N. NOT YOU TOO, YAHACHI-RO...
SHE'S QUITE RIGHT LORD IEYASU WOULD NEVER KILL EVEN A SINGLE RETAINER SO CARELESSLY.
Here at Iga Pass, Ieyasu listened to Yahachiro, and the two hundred ninjas of Iga led the retinue safely to the shores of Shiroko. The next year, Ieyasu made good on his promise and allowed the temples to be rebuilt

I SEE. SO FUKUSHIMA MASANORI HAS BESIEGED OTSU!!
HEHEHE HE...
HAHA HAHA HAHA HA!
HAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
WHAT'S MORE, THE SHADOW WARRIOR IS APPARENTLY UNABLE TO DEAL WITH THIS.
YES, MY LORD. THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A QUARREL WITH LORD FUKUSHIMA'S RETAINERS AT THE CHECKING STATION IN KYOTO, AND NOW HE HAS SURROUNDED THEIR CASTLE WITH TWO THOUSAND SOLDIERS, DEMANDING INA'S HEAD.
THE SHADOW WARRIOR
VERY WELL! I, LORD TOKUGAWA HIDETADA, SHALL PERSUADE FUKUSHIMA MASANORI MYSELF!
THAT MEANS THE SHADOW IS BUT A SHADOW NO MORE THAN AN IMPOSTER!
IF HE CANNOT HANDLE THIS PROBLEM

Shadow Warriors: Tokugawa Ieyasu

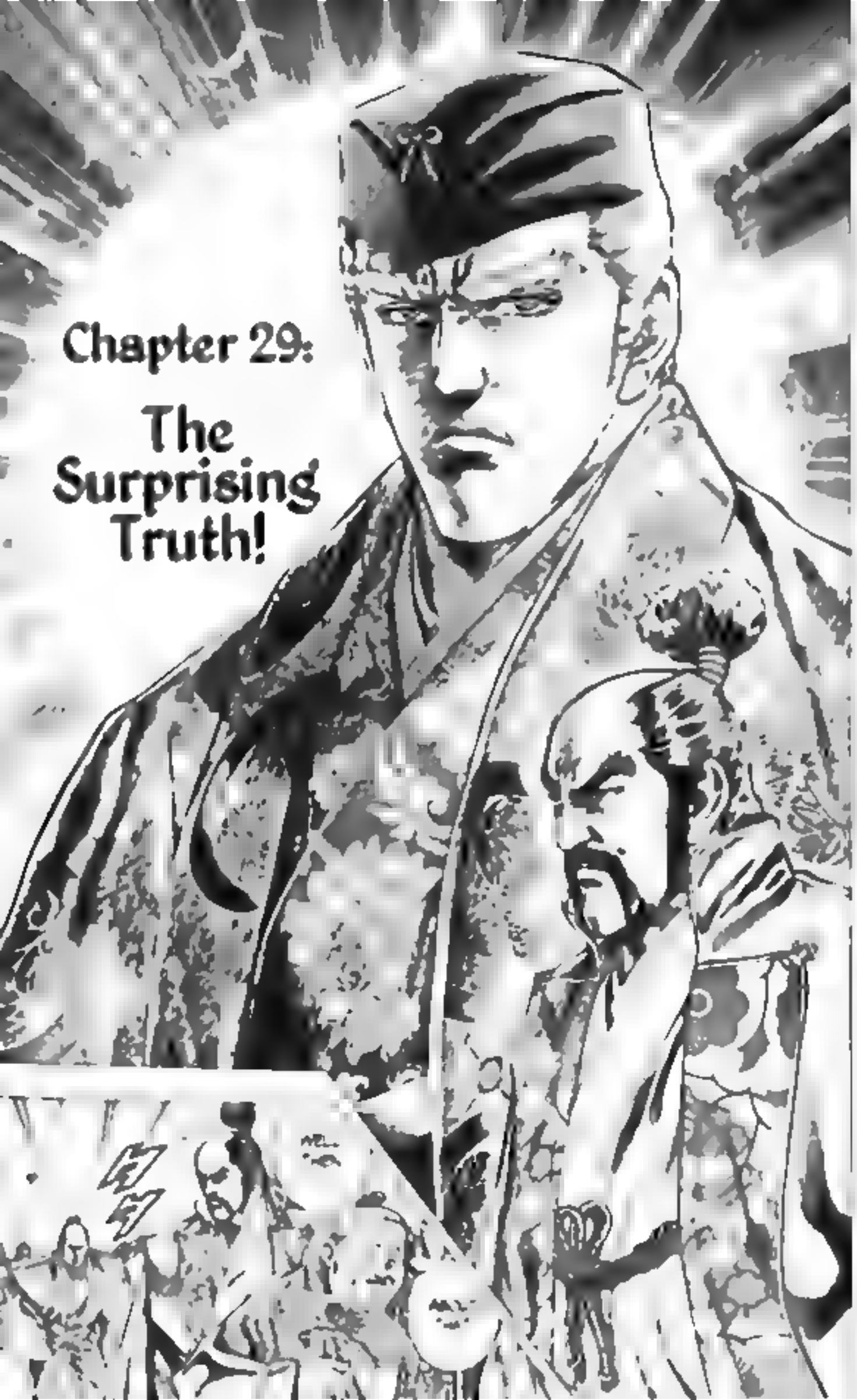
Chapter Twenty Eight

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akrosmata

Osaka Castle
BUT ...
THAT'S NOT FAIR TO HIS MOTHER..
Chapter 29: The Surprising Truth!

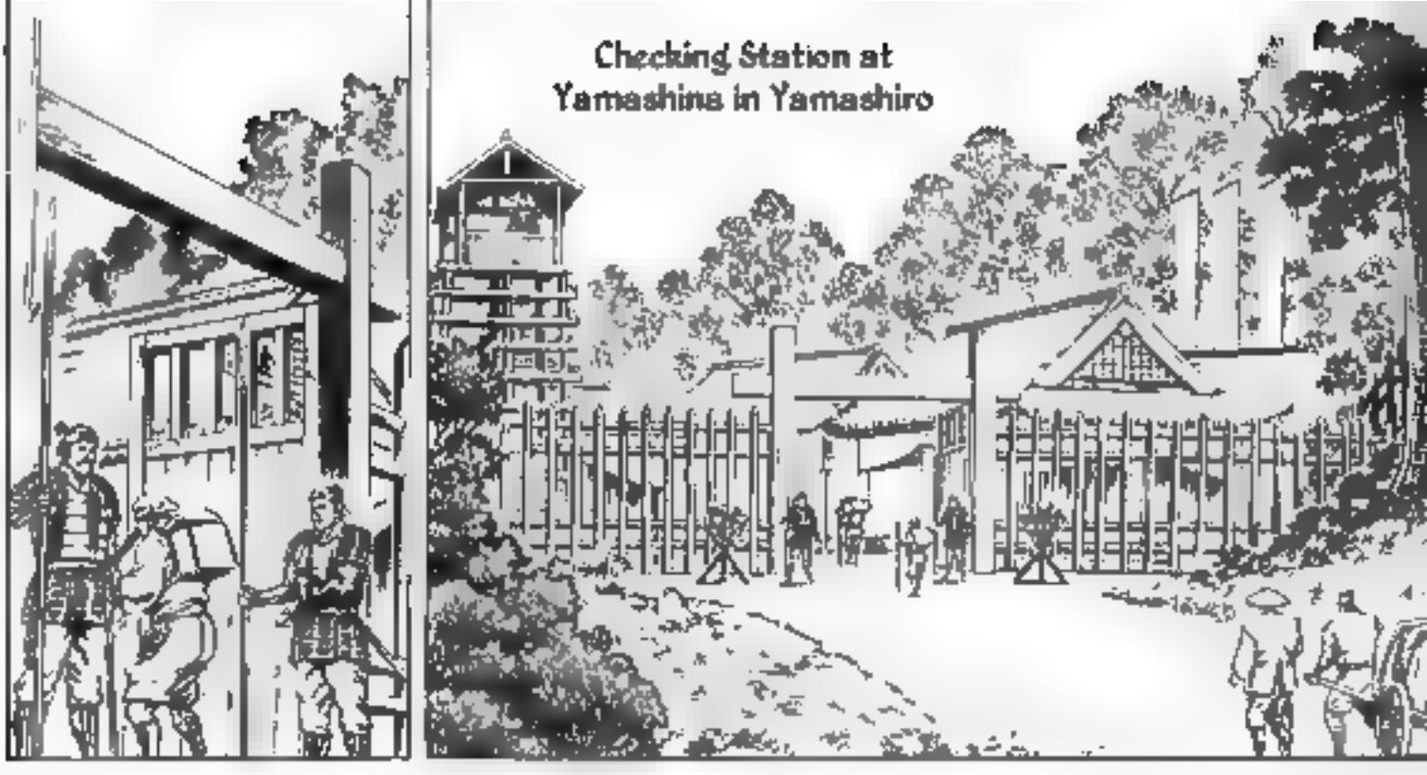
YES.
THINGS COULD GET UGLY SO LET'S KEEP THIS BE-TWEEN US.
IF LADY YODO HEARS OF THIS.

AND IF THIS KEEPS UP
I'D BE WORRIED ABOUT LORD HIDEYORI'S FUTURE.


Chapter 29:
The Surprising Truth!

WHAT !?
.....
HUH ?
AND LORD KURODA'S APPROACHED ME, TOO...
I'VE BEEN THINKING IT OVER...
I'LL SAY IT! I'LL SAY IT HERE AND NOW!
A- ALRIGHT, NOW!
UH... I THINK.
HMM?
DAMN YOU, MINISTER.
THE MINISTER AND I WERE BOTH VASSALS OF TOYOTOMI. HOW DARE HE NOT RESPOND TO MY DEMANDS IMMEDIATELY! COULD HE BE PLANNING TO BRING HARM TO ME AND LORD HIDEYORI?
UM... UM...
YOU SEE ...
DO NOT WITHDRAW THE TROOPS UNTIL YOU HAVE INA'S HEAD!
LISTEN.
YES, MY LORD!
AH?
OH, NO- THING.
.....
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

IF THE MINISTER CONSIDERED ME AN EQUAL, HE SHOULD HAVE PRESENTED ME WITH INA'S HEAD!
I'VE PRESENTED HIM THE HEAD OF ONE OF MY RETAINERS!
TO HAVE THE MINISTER MISUNDERSTAND ME
I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA.
EITHER TODAY OR TOMORROW
I'VE BEEN THINKING OF LEAVING OSAKA CASTLE
UH, LORD FUKUSHIMA?
LORD FUKUSHIMA?
BUT IF HE REFUSES TO...
LORD FUKUSHIMA?
WHAT?
WE MAY HAVE TO MAKE OUR LAST STAND AGAINST THE TOKUGAWA! I HAVE DECIDED TO REMAIN IN OSAKA CASTLE AND FIGHT FOR THE TOYOTOMI!
DEPENDING ON WHAT HAPPENS, WAR MAY BREAK OUT AGAIN!
SORRY, BUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED.
HUH?
EH?
?


Checking Station at
Yamashina in Yamashiro

HEHE... THAT WAS SOME SKILLED SWORDS-MANSHIP
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

AH!

IS THAT SO?

YOU'VE IMPROVED, GENROKU.
Ina Akitsuna

YOU DON'T NEED TO REPAY ME.
N.. NO..
HOW CAN WE EVER REPAY YOU?
I TRULY THANK YOU.
MY DAUGHTER AND I MANAGED TO ESCAPE WITH ONLY SCRATCHES!
BETTER, THANKS TO YOU!
WELL? HOW ARE YOUR INJURIES?
THERE'S A MESSENGER FROM OUR LORD IN AIZU!
WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED! ACTUALLY, THIS IS VERY GOOD INDEED! HAHAHAHA!
MY LORD!
OW!
OHH!? WHAT'S THIS?
P PLEASE, DON'T TEASE ME!
GENROKU, DO YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR THIS GIRL?
WHAT ARE YOU BLUSHING FOR?
WELL THEN
TO AIZU IMMEDIATELY.
I WILL HEAD
I SEE. I UNDERSTAND NOW.

BEING ACCUSED FOR THAT?
M... MY LORD, ARE YOU
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
B... BUT
!
M... MY LORD!!
W WAS THAT ABOUT THE INCIDENT WITH THE FUKUSHIMA LAST NIGHT?
It was a means of keeping troops who were fresh off the battlefield from storming Kyiv and starting a riot.
This checking station was established on September 17 under the command of Hon
NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU.
DO NOT WORRY
B... BACK THERE, I WAS...
B... BUT...
M... MY DAUGHTER! PLEASE SAVE MY DAUGHTER ...
WHAT IS THE MATTER?
HUH!?
HMM!?
P... PLEASE, HELP!

HEHEHE HEHE... COME ON, STOP RESISTING!
WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE O' YA!
AIE EEE EEE EEE EEE !
HUH W-WHAT THE
STOP THIS!!
AH! GEN-ROKU !!
CHEEKY BRAT!
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT ALL RAMPAGEOUS BEHAVIOR IS FORBIDDEN WITHIN KYOTO! CEASE THIS AT ONCE!!

DON'T TRY ANYTHING STUPID!
WE'RE ALL GONNA SLEEP WITH THIS WOMAN!
UHEHE HEHE ... HEY!
IT'S QUITE NOISY OUTSIDE.
WHAT'S THIS ?
M MY LORD!
THERE'S TROUBLE OUT AT THE GATES!
WE'LL CUT HER OPEN!
AND ONCE WE'VE HAD OUR FUN...
GHEH !
IYAA AAA AH!!

N... N-N-NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!
!!
!!
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT WE ARE RETAINERS OF LORD FUKUSHIMA MASANORI?
Y... YOU BAST-ARD!
NNGH!?
FUKU-SHIMA
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
HEY
AH...
WHADDYA WANT, GEEZER?
AH! MY LORD!
ALLOW ME, THE CHIEF OF THIS CHECKING STATION, INA AKITSUNA, TO HANDLE THIS.
LISTEN! WE'RE LORD FUKUSHIMA MASANORI'S ...

KNOW YOUR SHAME !!
YOU FOOLS !!
WAH!
W-WHY, YOU..

THE SHAME OF A RETAINER IS THE SHAME OF THE LORD!
HOW DARE A SAMURAI COMMIT SUCH EVIL IN NAME OF THEIR LORD!
!!
THAT'S RIGHT! STOP STAINING THE NAME OF YOUR LORD!
!!
IF I GO, EVERYTHING WILL BE RESOLVED.
NOW I MUST GO.
KCCH
UHHH

HERE.

W... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU, M... MY LORD ?

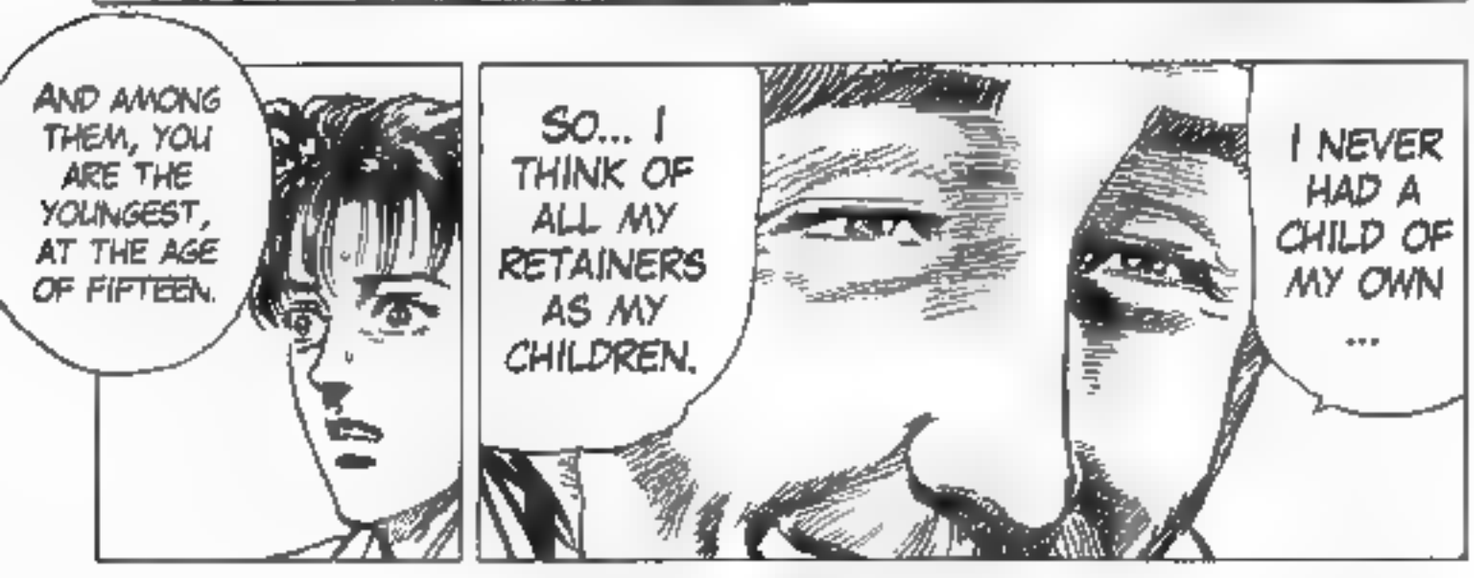
WHAT'S THIS? DON'T LOOK SO DOWN!

I HAVE SOME-THING I WAS MEANING TO GIVE YOU.
OH!

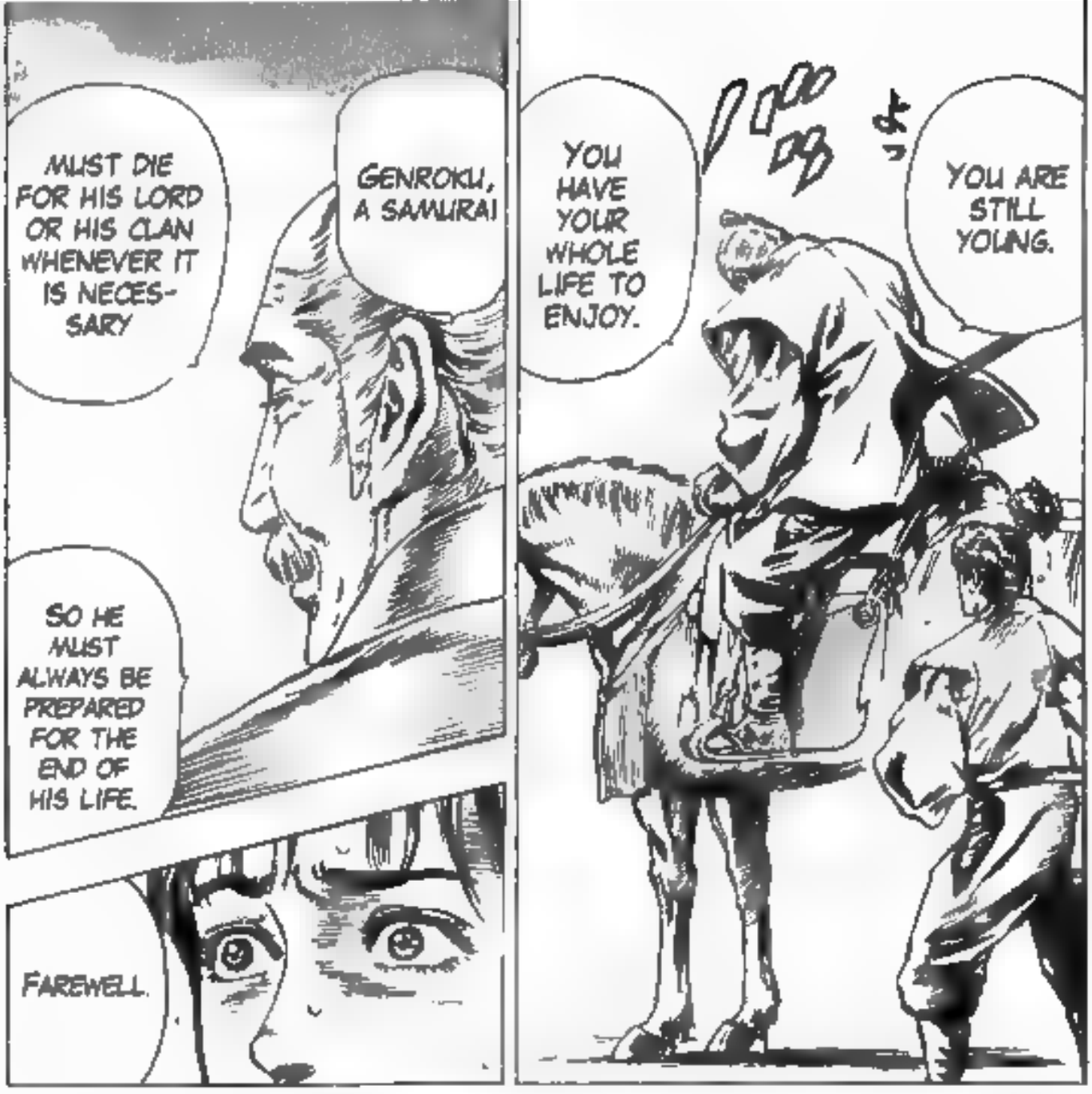
!

A SWORD PASSED THROUGH THE INA CLAN FOR GENERATIONS.
W... WHAT'S THAT!?

SO PRE-CIOUS..
T... TO ME. ?
W. WHY WOULD YOU GIVE SOME-THING


AND AMONG THEM, YOU ARE THE YOUNGEST, AT THE AGE OF FIFTEEN.
SO... I THINK OF ALL MY RETAINERS AS MY CHILDREN.
I NEVER HAD A CHILD OF MY OWN ...

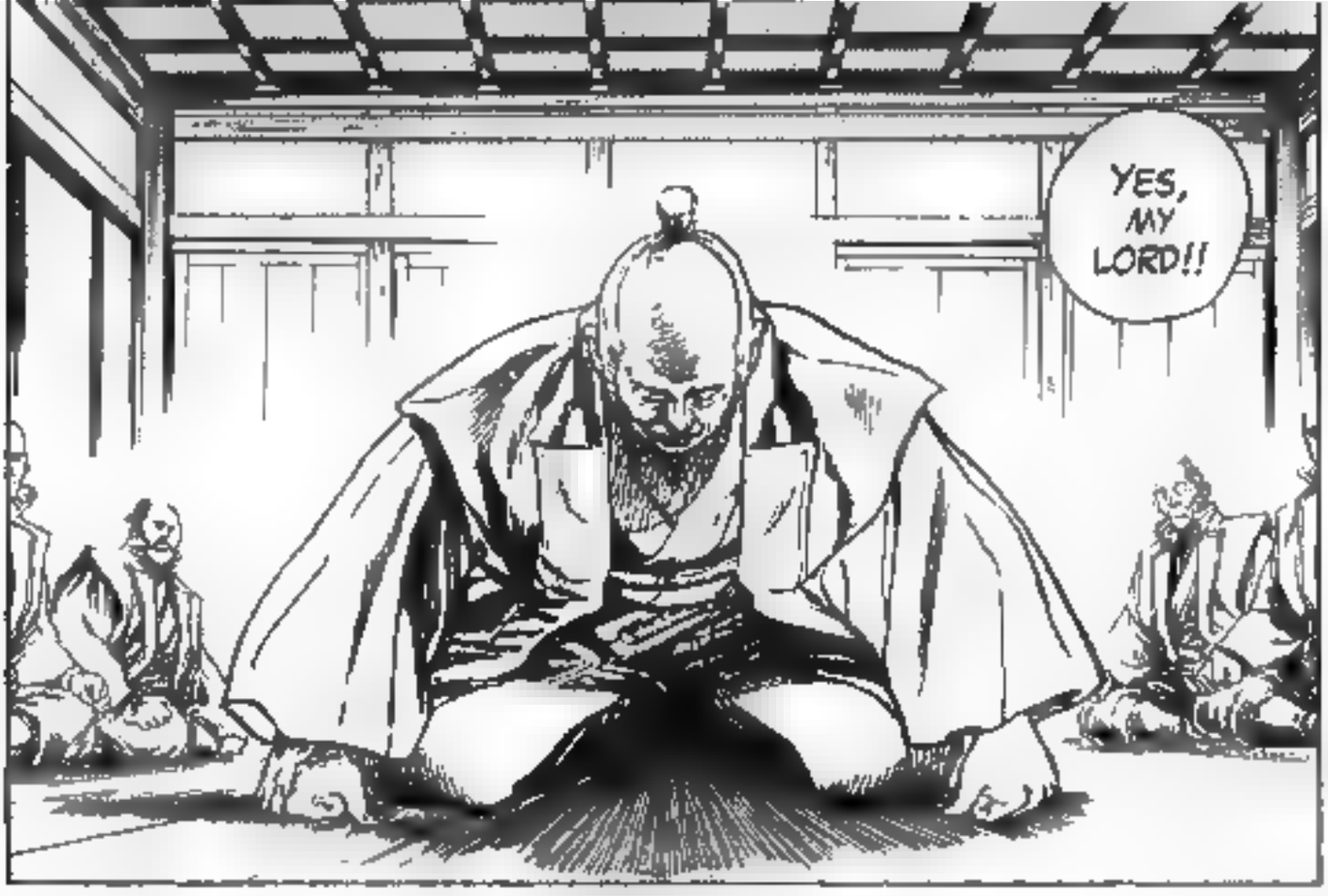
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE...?
M... MY LORD... YOU DON'T MEAN..
I WANT YOU TO TAKE IT.


GENROKU, A SAMURAI
MUST DIE FOR HIS LORD OR HIS CLAN WHENEVER IT IS NECES-SARY
SO HE MUST ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR THE END OF HIS LIFE.
FAREWELL.
YOU ARE STILL YOUNG.
YOU HAVE YOUR WHOLE LIFE TO ENJOY.

H... HE'D DIE FOR OUR SAKE...
M... MY LORD !

OUR LORD... HAS JUST SET FORTH FOR OTSU.
UNFORTU-NATELY
LORD IEYASU HAS BUSINESS WITH US?
HUH?
IT IS YOU I HAVE COME FOR.
NO.
THIS IS AN ORDER FROM LORD TOKUGAWA HIDETADA!
WRONG.
WHAT DOES LORD HIDE-TADA WANT WITH US...?
!?

GOOD GRAC-IOUS
THIS HAS BECOME QUITE SERIOUS...
かかか
Otsu Castle
I SEE ...
SO THAT IS THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER...


YES, MY LORD!!

LORD FUKUSHIMA HAS FALSELY ACCUSED HIM. LORD AKITSUNA IS INNOCENT.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT
...
ザワザワ...
I CAN BARELY BELIEVE IT
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS...
ﾊｯ

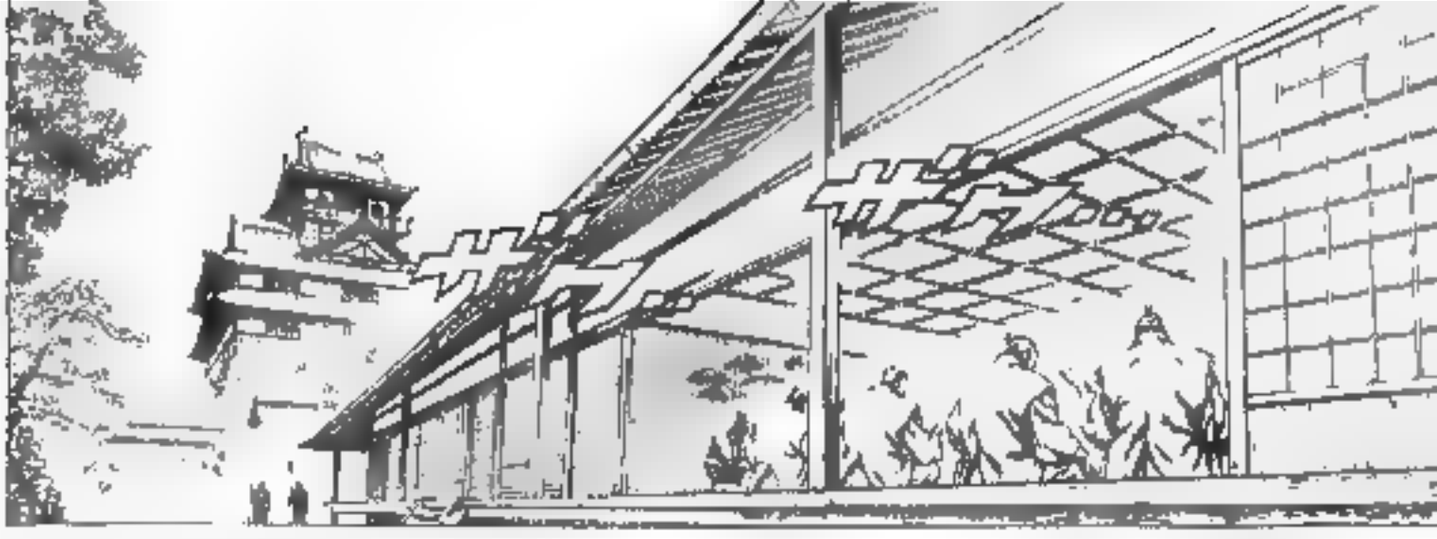
S. SO LORD AKITSUNA WAS NOT AT FAULT AFTER ALL...
M... MY LORD!
=!!
.....
.....
R... RIGHT...
MY LORD !!
WHAT IS THE MATTER?
M. MY LORD!!
INA MUST DIE!
YOU MUSTN'T, JIROSABURO! WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS AT FAULT, FOR THE TOKUGAWA'S SAKE..
I NO LONGER HAVE ANY REASON FOR LORD AKITSUNA TO DIE.
NOW...

Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

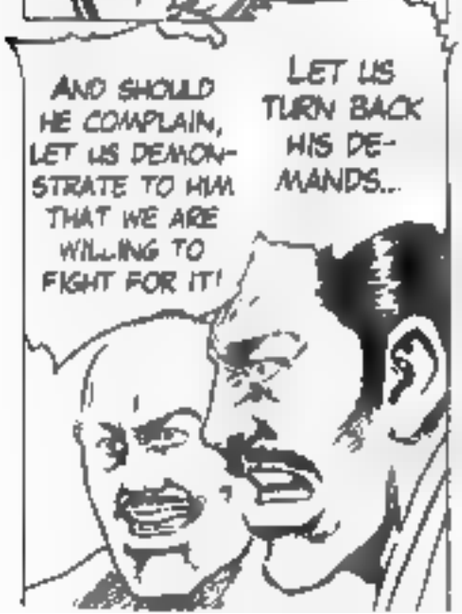
Chapter Twenty Nine

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akrosmata

Chapter 30: The Shadow's Mercy...!



MY LORD !!


AND SHOULD HE COMPLAIN, LET US DEMONSTRATE TO HIM THAT WE ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR IT!
LET US TURN BACK HIS DEMANDS..

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT!
IT IS UNNECESSARY TO GRANT FUKUSHIMA'S DEMANDS!
THE FAULT LIES WITH THE FUKUSHIMA! LORD INA IS INNOCENT!

MY LORD!! IF WE DON'T SPURN HIM, IT WILL BE A DISGRACE TO THE TOKUGAWA!
WE MUST MAKE HIM LEARN THAT THE TOKUGAWA CLAN IS THE MOST POWERFUL IN THE NATION!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!!
YES! IF WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE FUKUSHIMA, IT WILL CAUSE US GREAT GRIEF LATER!

URGH. EVERYONE'S SO CONFIDENT BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW THAT LORD IEYASU IS DEAD
W... WE SHOULD C... CALM DOWN.
W WELL, ABOUT THAT...

AND THE TOYOTOMI GENERAL WILL BECOME OUR FOE!
IF WE FIGHT LORD FUKUSHIMA NOW, HE WILL TAKE SHELTER IN OSAKA CASTLE
ARE YOU RESOLVED FOR THAT OUTCOME?

NO... WE MUST ACT!
SEND A MESSENGER TO FUKUSHIMA AT ONCE!

LORD II!
!?
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

I DO NOT THINK OUR LORD WISHES TO FIGHT SUCH A WAR!
L... LORD II...
W... WELL ...
UH..
OUR LORD ALWAYS SAID HIS TALENT LAY WITH FIELD BATTLES AS OPPOSED TO SIEGES. SHOULD THIS BECOME A SIEGE, THE BATTLE SHALL BE MORE HARROWING TO US THAN SEKIGAHARA WAS!
THEN OUR VICTORY AT SEKIGAHARA WILL BE MEANINGLESS!
!!
BUT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SACRIFICE A RETAINER OR TWO.
I HATE TO SAY THIS BEFORE LORD INA,
GRIEVOUS LOSSES TO OUR FORCES SHALL BE UNAVOIDABLE.
H... HE'S RIGHT. EVEN IF WE BESIEGE OSAKA CASTLE AND IT FALLS,
PLEASE, GIVE ME THE WORD.
THAT IS WELL. TAKE MY LIFE, IF IT WILL SOLVE THIS.
IF WE MAKE ENEMIES OF THE TOYOTOMI OUR LORD'S POSITION WILL
UHH... T... THAT WOULD BE BAD.

I COULD NOT PRESENT HIM WITH LORD AKITSUNA'S HEAD, EVEN IF THE TOKUGAWA'S FATE DEPENDED ON IT...
.? WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH MY LORD? WHY WILL HE NOT TELL ME TO DIE?
!?
MY LORD... A VAGABOND LIKE ME JUST CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE WAY YOU SAMURAI THINK.
MY LORD !!
JUST WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY LORD ? COULD IT BE THAT HE IS WAVERING!? IT CAN'T BE...
WHAT IS YOUR DECISION !?
AKITSUNA ...

YOU ARE DISMISSED.
YOU HAVE DONE WELL.

!?

M. MY LORD
H. HE'S SHOWING ME MERCY! E. EVEN THOUGH IT ENDANGERS THE TOKUGAWA CLAN.

M... MY LORD, YOU SEEM A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
N... NOW YOU'VE DONE IT, YOU FOOL!
M... MY LORD... THAT'S
THAT'S FAIR, BUT
?.....
D DAMN YOU, SHADOW WARRIOR!!

AH!
COULD HE STILL BE FATIGUED FROM THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA..? HE SEEMS DIFFERENT FROM THE LORD I KNEW. IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON...
W... WELL, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU IN TWO MONTHS...
HUH !?
HE HASN'T BITTEN HIS NAILS EVEN ONCE! HE'S JUST BEEN CLENCHING HIS FIST TIGHTLY
T... THAT'S RIGHT, HIS NAILS!
H...
HE NOTICED...
COULD IT BE
C...

HAHHA HA!
HAHA!
HAHA HAAAA HAH HAH HAH ...!!
W... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, INA?
HAH?
.....
.....
HUH!?
O... OU- OUR LORD IS STILL ALIVE! HOW COULD YOU...
OH. SORRY, BUT YOUR SUGGESTION WAS SO OUT-RAGEOUS.
.....?
YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT... AKITSUNA.
W.. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AHH... UHH...
A... ALIVE?
MY EYES AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE..
OH. WHAT I HAVE SAID WAS STRANGE, TOO.
!

AS YOU HAVE GUESSED ...
IT IS...
.....
.....
HUH ...?
.....
!?
N... NO.
HUH...?
!?
YES...
S... SO... M-MY LORD IS..

THEY SAY THAT WAR CHANGES PEOPLE...
AND YOU MIGHT SAY THE DEMISE OF MY SHADOW WARRIOR, THE MAN WHO REMAINED BY MY SIDE THROUGH 10 LONG YEARS, HAS CHANGED MY FATE.
THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA WAS SEVERE ENOUGH TO CHANGE MY COMPLEXION ...
HUH?
HAH HAH HAH ...
KAAH HAH HAH HAHA HAHA HA!
T THAT'S RIGHT! THAT WAR WAS DREADFUL! BUT MY LORD'S EVEN MORE HANDSOME NOW! I COULD ALMOST FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM!
MY LORD
YES ...
YOU ARE NOT AT FAULT IN THIS AFFAIR. YOU ARE DISMISSED.
AKITSUNA

M. MY LORD !!
HE MAY BE OVERWHELMED THAT THE LORD WOULD SPARE HIM.
THEIR ACCUSERS
H. HEY LOOK!
!
T. THIS CAN'T BE
THE FACT THAT HE HAS NOT PROMPTLY MET MY DEMANDS PROVES THAT HE DOES NOT SEE ME AS AN EQUAL!
BUT THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE! I KNOW THE MINISTER'S INTENTIONS!
Osaka Castle
I DON'T!! WE'LL PROBABLY BE STRUCK DOWN!!
B. BUT DO YOU REALLY HOPE TO WIN AGAINST THE MINISTER?

NOT TO HARM LORD HIDE-YORI!!
THIS IS JUST AS IF HE HAS ALREADY BROKEN HIS PROMISE
HUH?
Kuroda Nagamasa

GOOD !!
MY LORD !!
WE ARE PREPARED TO MARCH!

BUT IF YOU LOSE, LORD FUKUSHIMA, THEN WHO WILL PROTECT LORD HIDEYORI?

AND TAKE THE HEAD OF INA AKITSUNA !
WE WILL NOW HEAD TOWARDS THE CHECKING STATION OF YAMASHINA.

Otsu Castle
LORD HIDEYORI WILL HAVE NO FUTURE !
IF I DO NOT STAND HERE ...
DAMN THAT FOOL !

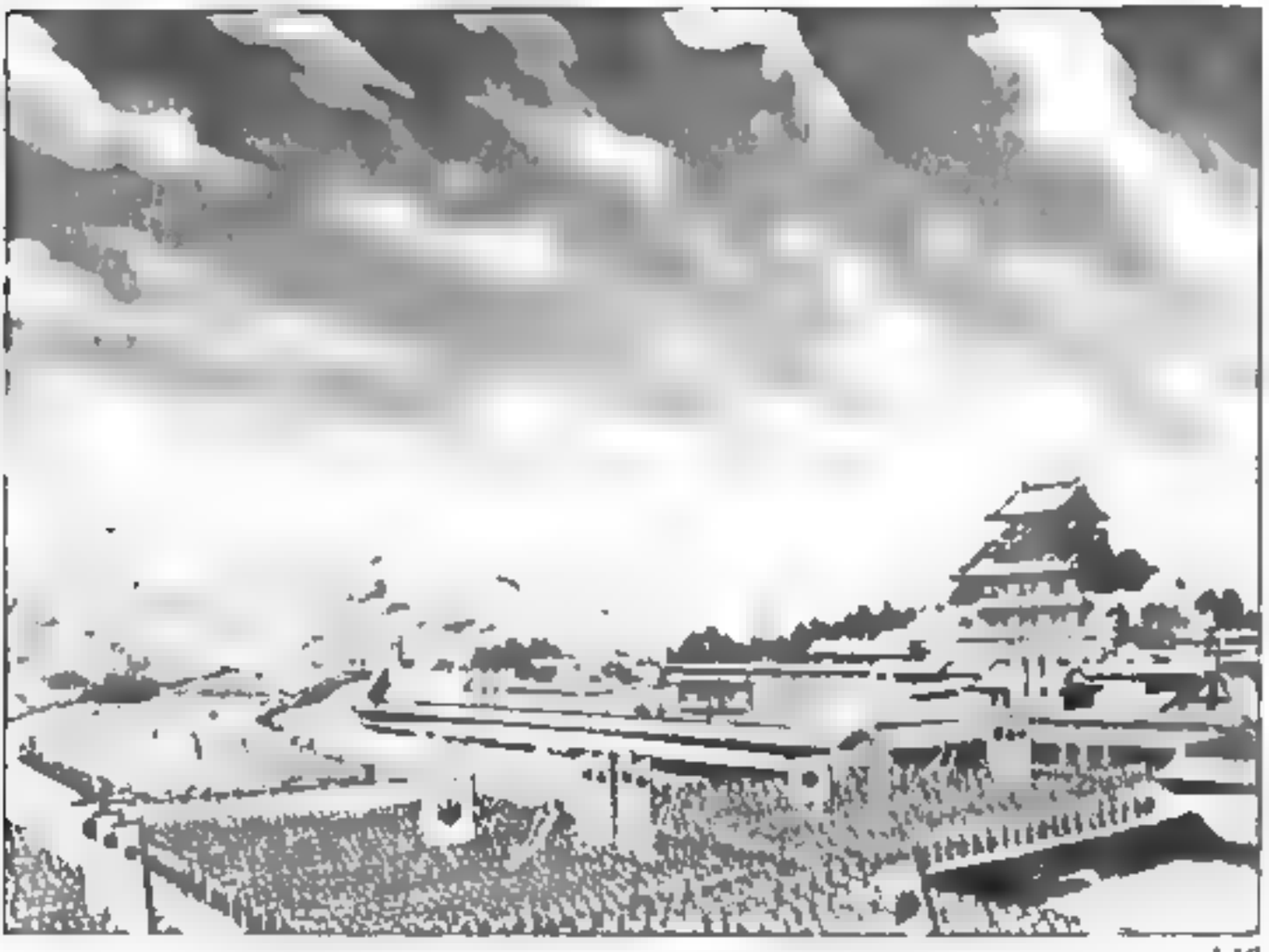
HUH ?
I KNOW NOT!!
WHAT DO YOU NEED!?
UH, UM, WHERE DO JIROSABURO SIT
ULP!
AND I WARNED HIM AGAINST IT!
HE'S FINALLY GONE AND DONE IT!
JIROSA-BURO!

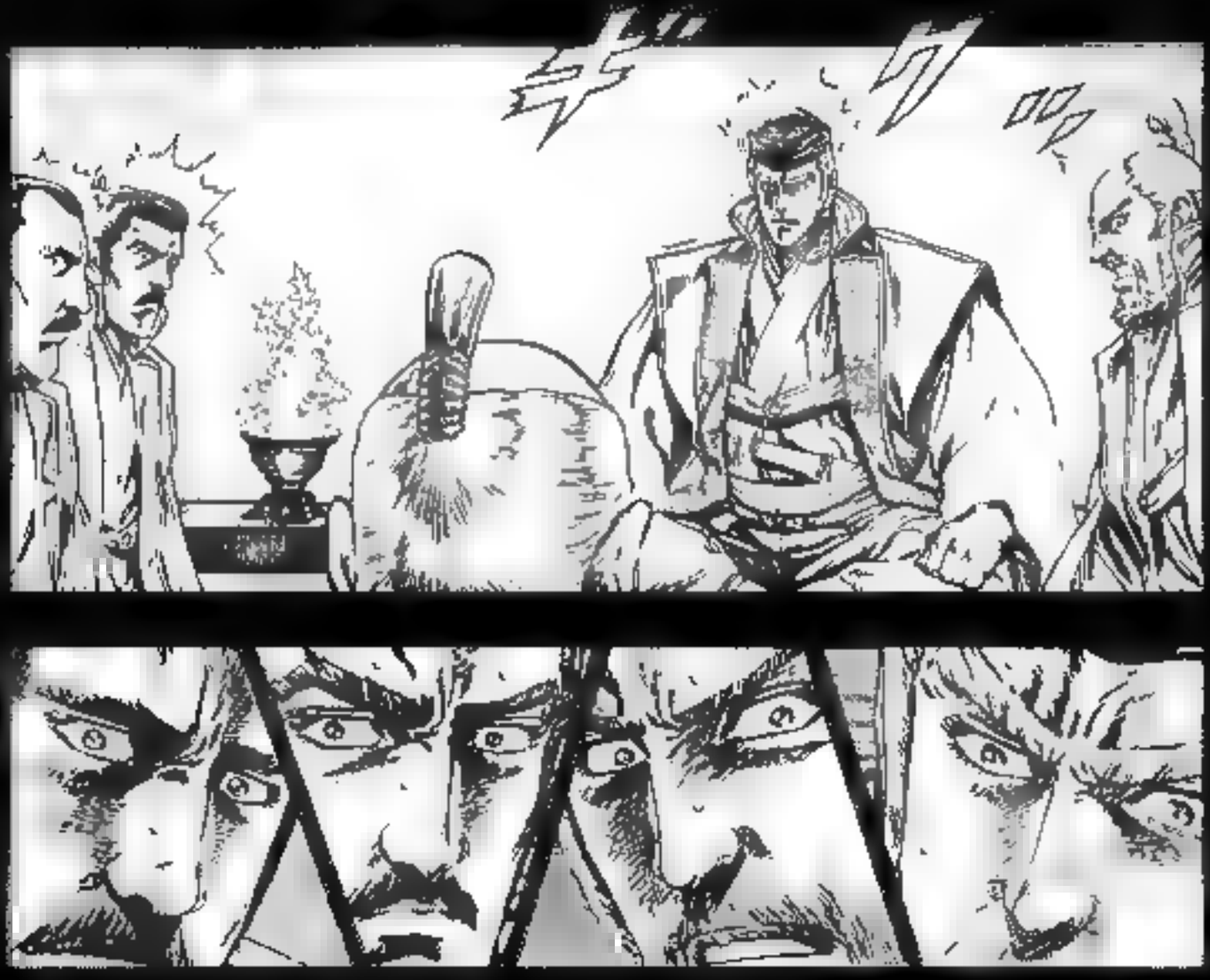
AND ENTRUSTED ME WITH HIS DREAM.
IN HIS DYING MOMENTS, OUR LORD LEFT THE TOKUGAWA CLAN AND THE NATION IN MY HANDS.
I SEE. SO OUR LORD DIED AT SEKIGA-HARA.
YOU USED TO BE A BRIGAND, DIDN'T YOU?
YES... I WAS A VAGABOND ...
THEN THAT WAS A POOR CHOICE ...
HUH !?
.....
WOULD HAVE CHOKED BACK HIS TEARS AND COM-MENDED ME TO DEATH.
MY LORD ...
I MEAN YOUR DECISION AT THE COUNCIL.
YES.

I SEE... A VAGA-BOND...
ONE WHO ROAMS FREELY THROUGH THE HILLS AND FIELDS, OVER RIVERS AND SEAS, WITH NOTHING TO BIND HIM...
I HAVE ALWAYS LIVED AS A HUMAN.
THESE WERE MY NATURAL FEELINGS.
BUT... A SAMURAI MUST DIE FOR THE SAKE OF HIS LORD.
I KNOW THE LOGIC OF THE SAMURAI.
HEHE... TO THINK THAT SUCH A MAN WOULD WEIGH MY LIFE AGAINST THE TOKUGAWA,
AND THAT A FELLOW RETAINER, EVEN ASSUMING MY LORD'S FIGURE, WOULD SHOW ME MERCY...
BUT I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT.
I CAN'T CONCEIVE OF THE NOTION OF THROWING AWAY YOUR LIFE FOR OTHERS, OR DYING FOR YOUR CLAN... PEOPLE SHOULD AT LEAST BE GIVEN THEIR OWN CHOICE ON WHERE TO DIE!
.....
YOU...
ARE A VERY STRANGE MAN

HE HAS SAID THAT LORD FUKUSHIMA MASANORI IS LEADING HIS ARMY TO YAMASHINA!
A MESSENGER FROM LORD KURODA NAGAMASA HAS COME!
!!
M... MY LORD!! COME THIS WAY!
MAY I USE YOUR GARDEN?
MY LORD ...
HUH !?
.....
SO I WILL FALL ON MY SWORD.
I MUST END THINGS HERE.

Yamashina Checking Station
YOU'VE CAUSED A QUARREL WITH FUKUSHIMA'S RETAINERS.
NOW, THIS ISN'T GOOD
LORD INA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE!
Y YOU'RE WRONG! WE'RE THE ONES AT FAULT!
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE THE ONES AT FAULT
M... MY LORD'S . ?
HUH?
AND BECAUSE OF YOU, OSAKA CASTLE HAS BEGUN TO DEMAND INA'S HEAD.
THAT'S WHY YOU FIVE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND DIE IN HIS PLACE!
INA IS AN ESTABLISHED VASSAL. IT WOULD BE A DISGRACE TO THE TOKUGAWA IF WE GAVE FUKUSHIMA HIS HEAD.



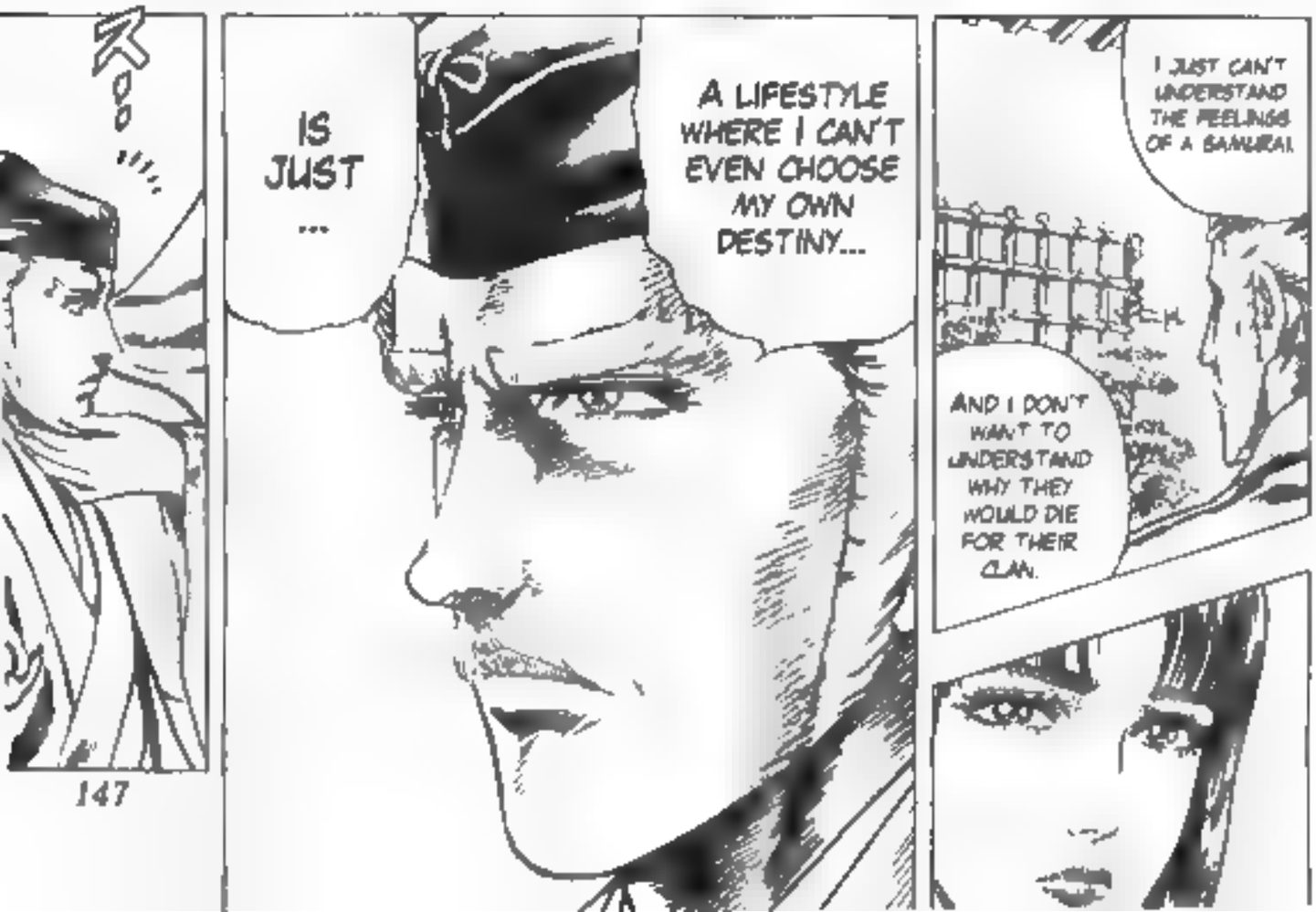


Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Thirty

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

Chapter 31: Five Heads!


I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF A SAMURAI.
AND I DON'T WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WOULD DIE FOR THEIR CLAN.
A LIFESTYLE WHERE I CAN'T EVEN CHOOSE MY OWN DESTINY...
IS JUST ...
KO

JIROSABURO'S LIFE HAS BEEN THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THE SAMURAI'S. NOW HE CANNOT KEEP ACTING AS LORD IEYASU.
HE IS REGRESSING TO THE FORMER JIROSABURO, AND HE IS IN TORMENT... OH, MY BELOVED...

Chapter 31: Five Heads!

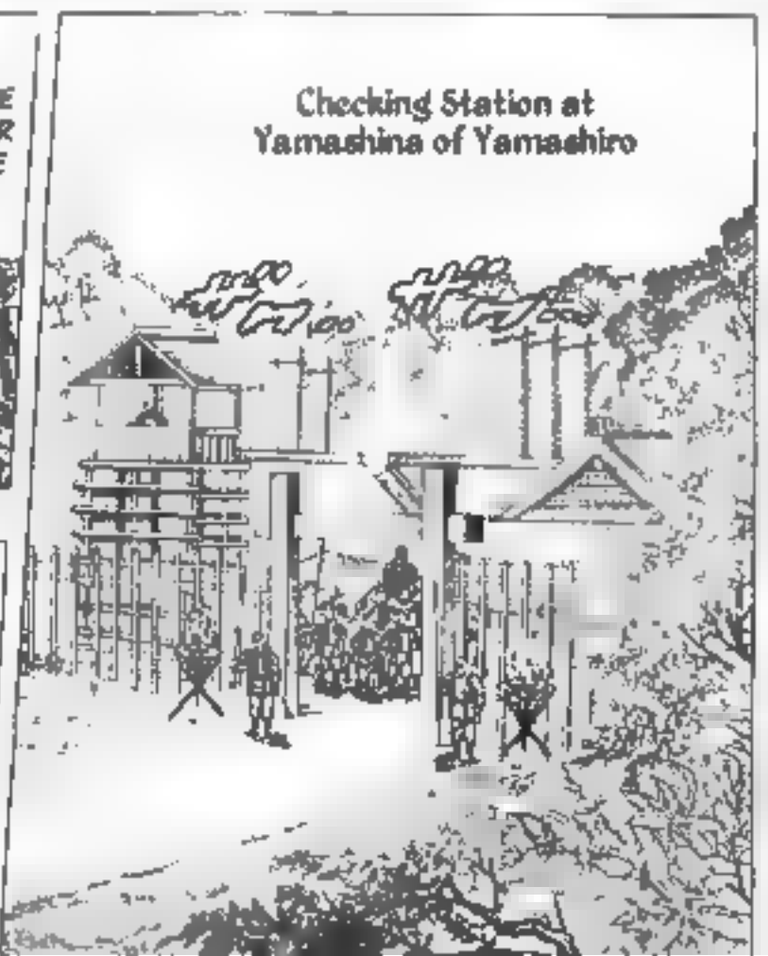
THAT I AM ABLE TO SHARE MY LAST CUP OF WINE WITH YOU, MY LORD!
FWAAAAH HAHA! I AM SO GRATE-FUL..
I TRULY THANK YOU!
.....
HUH !?
.....
YOU MUST NOT MAKE THAT FACE!
NO!
I...
I...
LORD AKITSU-NA
I AM IN YOUR DEBT FOR YOUR KINDNESS!
WELL, THAT WAS GOOD!
LORD AKITSU-NA...
YOU MUST BE MORE FIRM! MORE FIRM !
LORD IEYASU WOULD NEVER SEE HIS RE-TAINERS OFF WITH SUCH A FACE FULL OF PITY
WELL THEN... LORD SERADA..
I REFUSE TO LET MY LORD'S DREAM END HERE.
IF I FALL ON MY SWORD HERE, THIS INCIDENT WITH LORD FUKUSHIMA WILL BE SETTLED..
RIGHT.

I HAVE ONE LAST REQUEST FOR YOU.
YES.
....
WILL YOU HEAR IT?
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S ABOUT MY VASSALS GUARDING THE CHECKING STATION.
SO THAT THEY ARE EXEMPT FROM PUNISH-MENT?
WILL YOU ARRANGE IT...
I WANTED TO RAISE THEM TO BECOME GREAT WARRIORS THAT WOULD ONE DAY BE OF USE TO THE TOKUGAWA CLAN.
THAT IS MY ONLY REGRET
AH...
THERE IS NO NEED FOR FURTHER AC-CUSATIONS!
O-... OF COURSE I WILL!
I AM RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT
I NEVER HAD A CHILD OF MY OWN.
HENCE I RAISED THEM AS IF THEY WERE MY OWN.

THANK YOU..
I SWEAR.
I UNDER-STAND.
.....

Hm..
CONFINED AT KUSATSU FOR BEING LATE FOR SEKIGAHARA !?
W-WASN'T HE
W WHAT IS THE COUNSELLOR DOING HERE ?

I HAD HEARD THAT LORD HIDETADA WAS A GENTLE MAN WITH THE MOST FIDELITY TO LORD IEYASU.
BUT I SUP-POSE THE RUMORS WEREN'T TRUE.


Checking Station at
Yamashina of Yamashiro

!
AH, MY LORD!
!?
SCR
SCR
SCR
HELL LORD WILL BE SPARED ?
IF HE DIE

BUT !
BUT... M... MY FATHER !!
!?
I... I DON'T ...
M. MY LORD !!
I WAS IN SUCH GREAT DISTRESS...
AS I... WAS ON MY WAY HERE...
I... IS
AUUHH ...
A... AND MY FATHER ...
WHAT !?
HUH?
SUFFER- ING IN OTSU!!
MY FATHER IS...
FOR HE HAS BEEN ORDER- ED TO TAKE THE HEAD OF HIS MOST LOYAL SUB- JECT AND VASSAL, INA!

T... THE LEAST I CAN DO
IS SETTLE THIS MATTER FOR HIM...
N-
NO WAY ...
SO YOU ARE HERE IN HIS PLACE!
I... I SEE!
I... I FEAR H... HE WILL NOT... LAST MUCH LONGER...
LORD HIDE-TADA ...
L...
S... SO PLEASE, SPARE LORD INA!
M... MY LORD! I WILL DIE!!
SO WILL I!!
AND I!
I, I AS WELL!
A-AS WILL !!!

I... I GUESS.
I THANK YOU... I THANK YOU.
:
:
NOW MY FATHER WILL BE AT EASE... I... I THANK YOU!
I... I AM GLAD... I AM GLAD YOU VOLUNTEERED...
OHHH...
I. I SEE ...
B. BUT TO THINK THE SITUATION WOULD BECOME SO GRAVE.
HE AS JUST AS GREAT AS THE RUMORS SAY AFTER ALL.
MY LORD !?
!?
!?

S... SHUT THE DOOR!
HEEEH ...
HEEEH HEHEHE !
PPPPF FFFT!
PFFFFT! PFFFFT!
M.. MY LORD
ぴたぱた
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND... MUNE-NORI...
HAAAAH ... HUH!?
DO YOU REALLY THINK LORD FUKU-SHIMA WILL ACCEPT THOSE VASSALS' HEADS...?
BY THE WAY, MY LORD...
SHALL SILENCE FUKU-SHIMA! THAT WILL AWAKEN THOSE FOOLS IN OTSU!
THOSE FIVE HEADS ARE ENOUGH. I, LORD HIDETADA,
I- I SEE.
YES ...!!
THAT THE LIFE OF THE TOKUGAWA'S CHIEF VASSAL IS WORTH MORE THAN FUKU-SHIMA'S?
ISN'T IT ONLY NATURAL ...
NOW THAT MAEDA TOSHIIE IS DEAD AND SEKIGAHARA IS WON...
UESUGI IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STAND AGAINST TOKUGAWA.
THE TOKUGAWA ALL BUT RULE THE NATION.

THEN ONCE MY NEGOTIATIONS WITH FUKUSHIMA ARE OVER, I WILL RULE THE NATION!
MY SERVANTS HAVE ALREADY SNUCK INTO OTSU CASTLE!
YES.
HAVE YOU MADE PREPARATIONS FOR THE SHADOW WARRIOR'S ASSASSINATION?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, MUNENORI...
YES, MY LORD!!
OF THE FAMILIES YOU LEFT BEHIND.
I WILL TAKE GOOD CARE
LORD INA, FARE THEE WELL.
THIS SWORD HAS BEEN PASSED THROUGH THE INA CLAN FOR GENERATIONS. I WISH FOR YOU TO TAKE IT
.....
ドドド

LORD INA!!
A. AKITSUNA, W. WHAT IS THE MATTER?

HEHE... I SUPPOSE THAT AT MY AGE, I AM TREMBLING WITH EXCITEMENT BEFORE COMMITTING SUICIDE.
OH, IT'S NOTHING ...
スゥ
YES...
I AM LEAVING MY VASSALS TO YOU...
WELL THEN ...
スー
GENROKU... ALL OF YOU.
I HOPE YOU BECOME MAGNIFICENT SAMURAI...

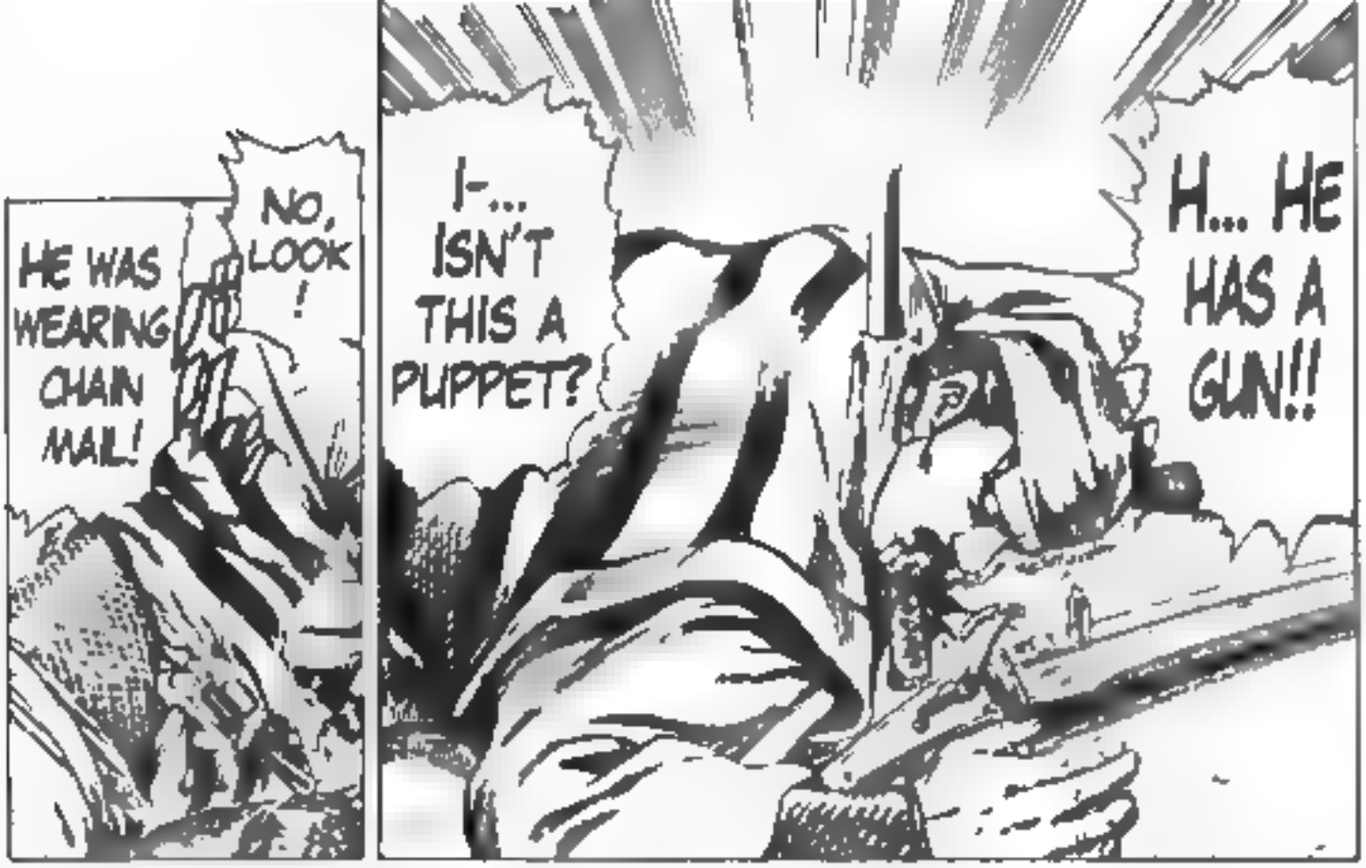
F... FUKU-SHIMA'S ARMY SURROUNDING THE CASTLE IS...!!
W... WELL ...
W WHAT IS IT?
!?
P- PLEASE, WAIT!!
HUH !?
F... FUKU-SHIMA'S TROOPS... ARE WITH-DRAWING!?
M... MY LORD!!
T... THERE'S A MESSENGER FROM LORD HIDETADA!!
WHY WOULD THE STUBBORN FUKU-SHIMA LEAVE WITH-OUT INA'S HEAD...?
W... WHAT COULD THIS MEAN !?

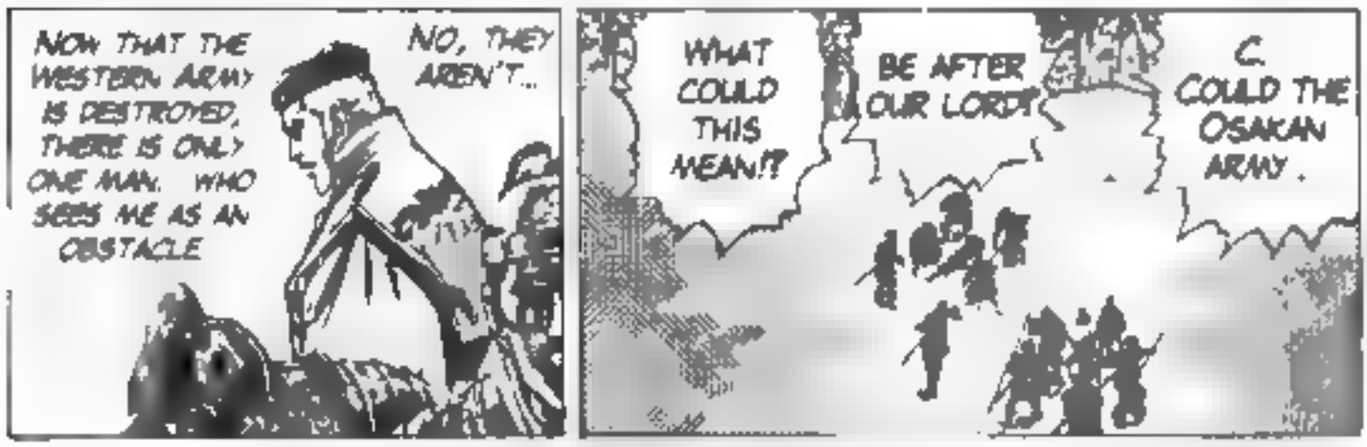
H... HIDETADA... PERSUADED LORD FUKUSHIMA!?
W... WHAT?
YES. LORD HIDETADA HAS RESOLVED THE ISSUE
HE WENT TO THE CHECKING STATION AT YAMASHINA... AND TOOK THE HEADS OF THE FIVE VASSALS THAT CAUSED THIS INCIDENT
B... BUT HOW?
!!
SO HE HAS DEMANDED THAT LORD INA'S SUICIDE BE STOPPED.
WHAT?

W... WHY DID GENROKU AND THE OTHERS... D... DIE IN MY PLACE .?
N... N... NO...
AKI-TSUNA ...!
HEHEHE... THEY HAVE FINE FACES FOR MERE VASSALS.
THESE HEADS SHOULD BE ENOUGH. FUKUSHIMA SHOULD BE SATISFIED.
MY LORD!
LORD FUKUSHIMA MASANORI HAS JUST ARRIVED!
...GOOD. LET HIM THROUGH.

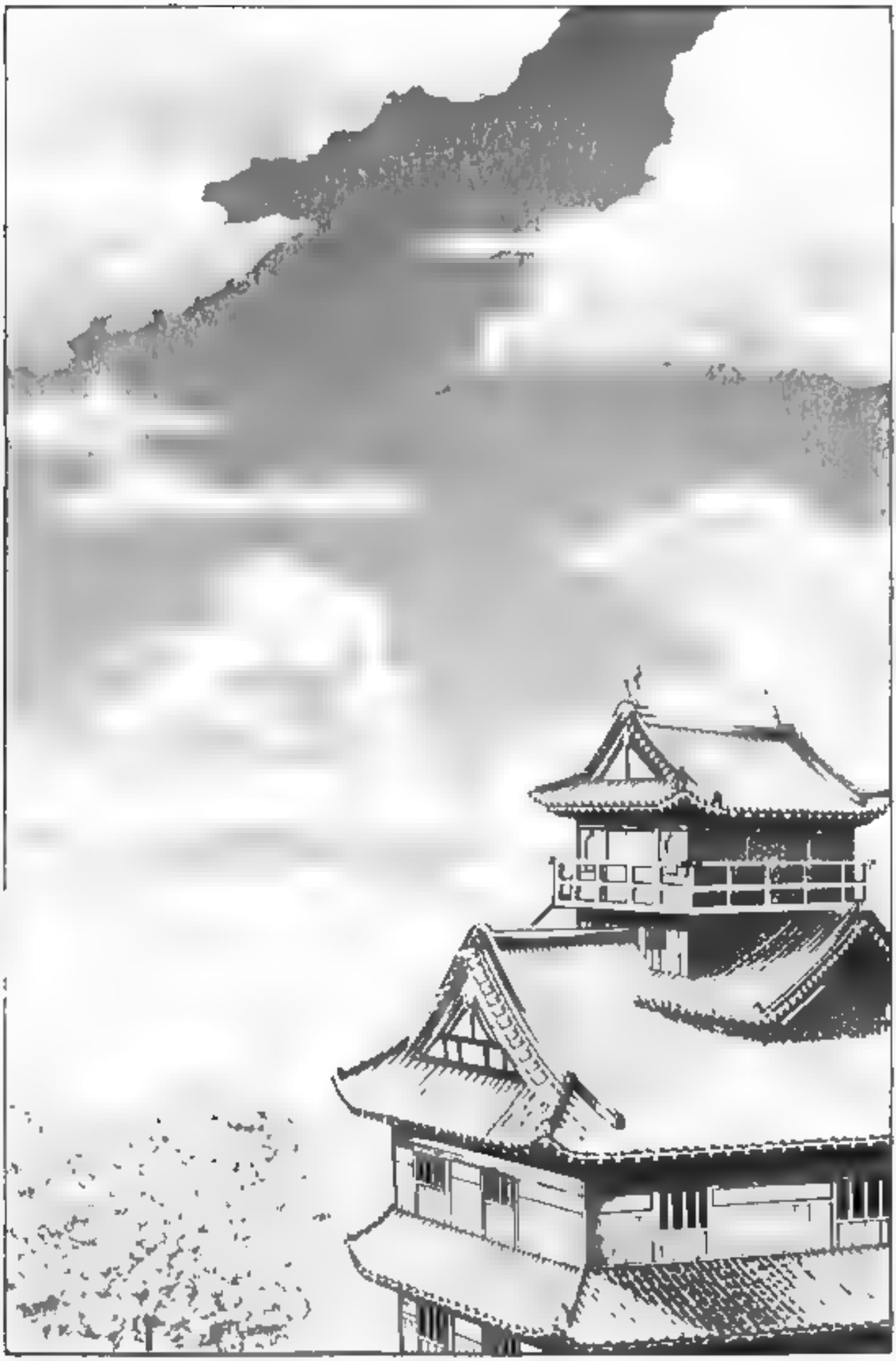
!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T LORD FUKUSHIMA!
I AM GLAD YOU HAVE COME...
KCOH WHY DID HIDETADA ACT WITHOUT PERMISSION?
WHO'S THAT?
I-... IT CAN'T BE..
AKITSUNA...
SOB

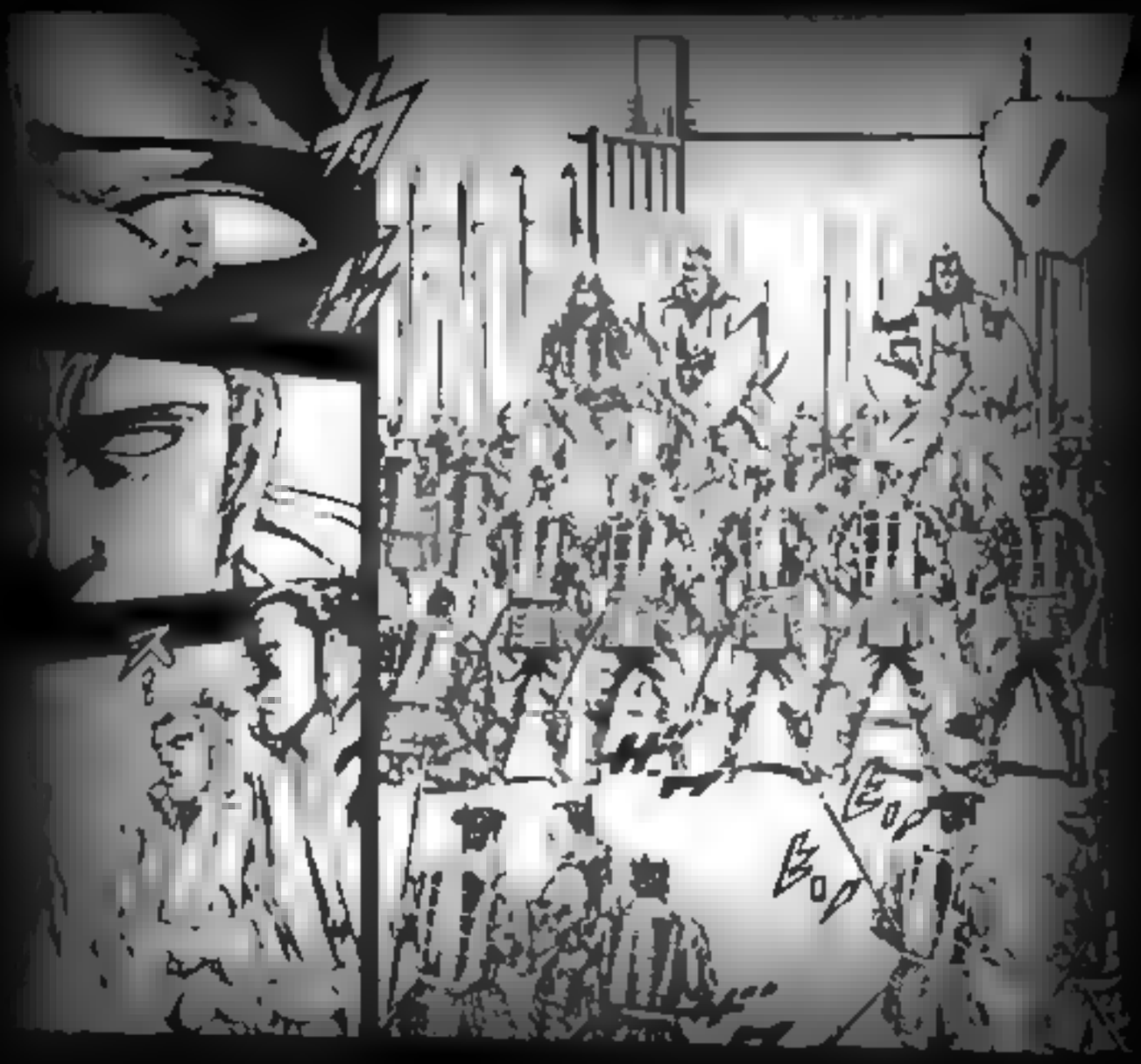
SOB ...
GGH!
I SMELL A FUSE
!?
INTRU-DER!!
PROTECT THE LORD!
THERE'S AN IN-TRUDER! HURRY!


HE WAS WEARING CHAIN MAIL!
NO, LOOK!
I-... ISN'T THIS A PUPPET?
H... HE HAS A GUN!!


NOW THAT THE WESTERN ARMY IS DESTROYED, THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN. WHO SEES ME AS AN OBSTACLE
NO, THEY AREN'T...
WHAT COULD THIS MEAN!?
BE AFTER OUR LORD?
C. COULD THE OSAKAN ARMY.

IS JUST LOGICAL IF I WERE ABOUT TO DIE!
HIDETADA IS AIMING FOR MY LIFE...
THE WAY HE ACTED WITHOUT MY, PER-MISSION
HIDETADA, WHO'S UNDER HOUSE ARREST!!





Shadow Warriors Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Thirty One

Presented by Hakuto no Gen
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

WHAT COULD THIS MEAN!?
HIDETADA.. TRIED TO KILL ME.
THEY'RE DISGUISED AS VAGABONDS! BE ON YOUR GUARD!
TIGHTEN THE GUARD AROUND OUR LORD !!

Chapter 32: Appeal of Deathly Resolve!

Chapter 32: Appeal of Deathly Resolve!

IEYASU
...
DIE
!

HMM
HMM!?
BWA AAH !
HMM-HM-HMM
HMMM
HMM, HMM
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE!?
OH!
HUH !?
WAH.. TATA...
AHHH IT GOT ON MY HANDS..
O-OH, NOTHING ...
W WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!?

NOW, I'D BETTER GO BACK AND DRINK SOME MORE!
I NEVER SEEN YOU 'ROUND HERE BEFORE!
I MUST'VE GOTTEN DRUNK AND FALLEN ASLEEP.
AHH ...
THIS IS EMBAR-RASSING ...
HEY, HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
LOHL
...NOW, I GOTTA GO!
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? AREN'T WE FRIENDS?
AND BESIDES THAT, YOU STINK. YOU SMELL LIKE A SAMURAI.
SHOULDN'T GO STICKIN' OUR NOSES IN SAMURA BUSINESS.
FIRST OFF, WE VAGA-BONDS.
Y.. YOU'RE HEAVY! LET ME GO!

HEE EEH !
OW, OW, OW !
WELL, THEN YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!
DIE!
I-... IS THAT SO?
DON'T TRY ANYTHING FUNNY.
WHOA, NOW.
W... WHAT WAS THAT!?
HUH !?
AGYA AH!
GYA GYAA AH!

HMM
!?
!!
Yamashina
Checking
Station

WHAT ARE THESE!?
THEY'RE HEADS!
CAN'T YOU TELL?
ACTUALLY, LORD FUKUSHIMA, I WAS HOPING...
THAT THESE FIVE HEADS CAN BRING AN END TO THIS INCIDENT
REGARDLESS, YOU REALLY MUST BE CAUTIOUS, LORD FUKUSHIMA
THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIME FOR THE TOKUGAWA. SO DON'T GO CAUSING ANY RIOTS.
.....

IT WAS I, COUNSELLOR HIDETADA!!
MY FATHER DID NOT SUMMON YOU!
HUH !?
WHERE'S THE MINISTER?
.....
!
I WAS SUMMONED BY THE MINISTER!
WHERE IS THE MINISTER?
!!!
Otsu Castle

SPEAK !!
MNNNGH!
YOU BASTARD... IF YOU WON'T TELL US WHO SENT YOU..
IS HE ONE OF THE ISHIDA !?
UNNGH... WHAT A GUY...
H"H"H"
.....
ぐぬぬや

HEY! GET LOST!
THOSE SAMURAI SURE ARE CRAZY...
UHHH. THAT'S A LITTLE TOO FAR
WE WILL HAVE TO CUT OFF YOUR HEAD!
WE SURE HAVE IT EASY.
YEAH, YEAH.
MY LORD!
WAIT !!
KYEE EEEE EEEE EEEH !
HEH
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK IF YOU DON'T WANT TO
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN TRAINED VERY WELL
YOU'RE PRETTY STUBBORN, AREN'T YOU?
HUH!?

YES, I UNDER-STAND NOW.
I KNEW IT
IT WAS HIDE-TADA, RIGHT?
"LORD HIDE-TADA"... IF YOU WERE FROM THE ISHIDA, YOU WOULD NOT HAVE SAID LORD.
HEH.
I... IT WASN'T LORD HIDETADA AT ALL!
T... THAT'S PREPOST-EROUS!
DID LORD HIDETADA SEND YOU?
H... HEY, IS THAT TRUE?
URGH! HE BIT HIS TONGUE ...
BGH...

N... NO...
T... TO THINK LORD HIDETADA WOULD GO SO FAR...
...AY, ME...
WOULD LORD
LORD II, LORD SAKAKIBARA, AND THE SUCCESSOR, HIDETADA.
THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW OF LORD IEYASU'S DEATH AT SEKIGAHARA ARE THOSE PRESENT..
LIES HIS TRUE NATURE AS A CRUEL AND CALLOUS MAN.
BENEATH HIS MASK OF HONESTY AND FIDELITY...
IF I DIE, HE CAN ANNOUNCE LORD IEYASU'S DEATH AND DECLARE HIMSELF THE SUCCESSOR.
THIS MEANS THAT MY PRESENCE IS AN OBSTACLE.
!
HIDETADA WANTS THE TOKUGAWA CLAN FOR HIMSELF

……
AND SO HE TOOK YOUR FIVE VASSALS' HEADS, AND SENT ASSASSINS AFTER ME.
FOR THAT REASON, HE NEEDED TO TRY AND CONVINCE FUKUSHIMA AT HIS OWN DISCRETION.
Y... YES. HE IS A FORCE TO BE FEARED...
T THESE ARE NOT THE ACTS OF A SANE MAN...
I-.. IF ONLY LORD HIDETADA HAD NOT BEEN SO FOOLISH, G-.. GENROKU AND THE OTHERS WOULD NOT HAVE DIED ...
T... THAT... CAN'T BE...
……
L... LORD AKITSUNA...
……

L-LORD AKITSUNA...
W... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

L... LORD HIDE-TADA ...
D... DOES NOT UNDER-STAND ...
L-LORD FUKUSHIMA DEMANDED MY HEAD!
W... WITHOUT MY HEAD... HE WILL NEVER WITHDRAW. SUCH ARE THE SAMURAI.
.....
WE STILL HAVE YET TO CONFISCATE OSAKA CASTLE.
THE TOKUGAWA ARE STILL MERELY RETAINERS TO THE TOYOTOMI
N... NOW...
C-CUT OFF MY HEAD...
A-AND STOP LORD HIDETADA'S RAMPAGE ...

GENROKU
BE IN VAIN..
D..DO NOT LET GENROKU'S DEATH..
DAMN YOU, HIDETADA!
.....
D DAMN YOU..
HERE I COME!!
YOUR PAR-DON
!!!

NOW ...
CALM DOWN FANCY SOME WINE?
NOW, NOW
I AM GOING TO THE CHECKING STATION OF YAMA-SHINA!!
BRING ME MY HORSE !!
DON'T TOY WITH ME!!
WHERE IS THE MINI-STER? WHERE IS HE?
!?
HUH !?
W.. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

PHEW ...
HUH !?
YOU SEEM TO BE MISTAKEN, LORD FUKUSHIMA.
I REFUSE TO TALK TO YOU, CHILD!
I DEMANDED THE HEAD OF INA! NO AMOUNT OF FOOT SOLDIERS' HEADS COULD MAKE UP FOR IT!
WILL YOU NOT LISTEN TO ME?
I TOLD YOU, HE IS NOT HERE.
H. H-HE ISN'T GOING TO REVEAL THE SECRET, IS HE. ?
SO NOW YOU MUST DEAL WITH ME.
MY FATHER IEYASU HAS DEPARTED THIS WORLD.

Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Thirty Two

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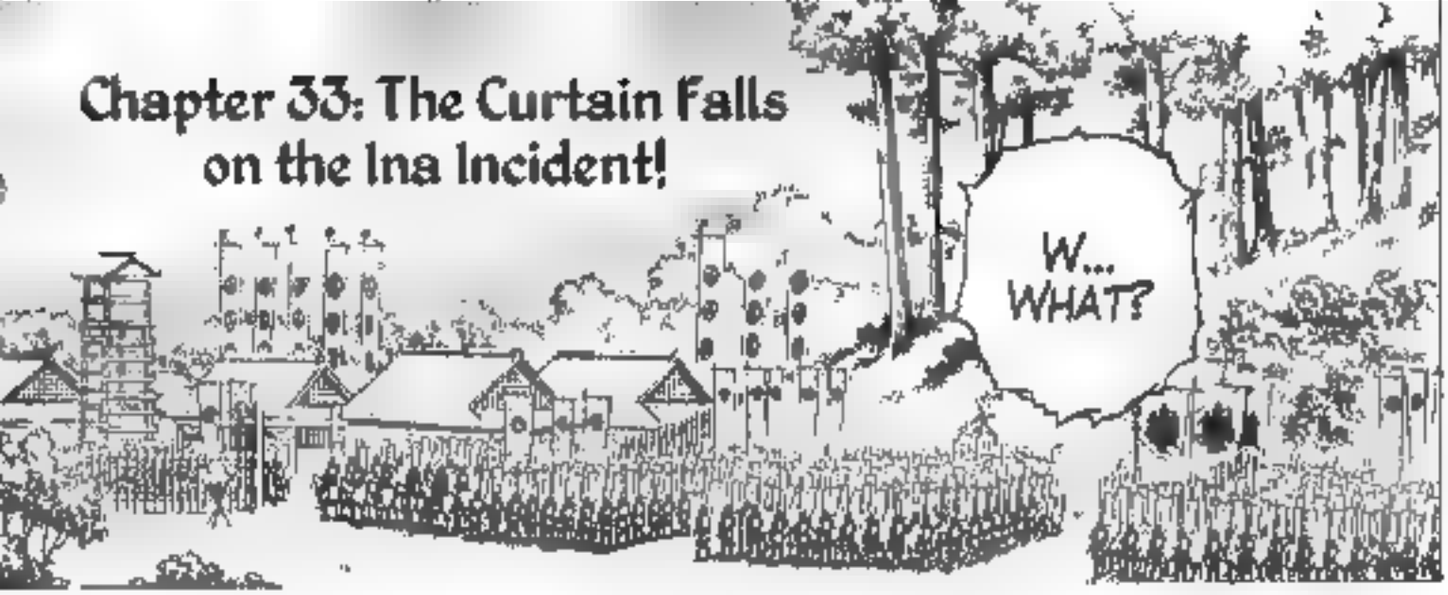
Edited by Akromata

Chapter 33: The Curtain Falls on the Ina Incident!



Chapter 33: The Curtain Falls on the Ina Incident!

THAT WAS THE SHADOW WARRIOR'S DOING. HE REPLACED HIM.
SO WHO LED THE EASTERN ARMY TO VICTORY...?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU ... JUST SAID HE WAS SLAIN BEFORE THE BATTLE?
THAT IS CORRECT
YES.
THE ONE WHO GAVE SUCH EXPERT COMMANDS WAS THE SHADOW WARRIOR !?
SO...
HEH.
HEHE HEHE.
NOW, APOLOGIZE! KNEEL AND BEG FOR FORGIVENESS!
HEHE. WELL? FRIGHTENED, ARE YOU? YOU DARED CALL ME CHILD, BUT I AM NOW THE LORD OF THE TOKUGAWA... AND THE NEXT RULER OF THIS NATION!
!!

W WHAT'S SO FU
HAAA AAA HAHA HAHA !!
WA AA AH HA HA HA HA HA HA !
HUH !?
GEEEH !
WHAT NONSENSE IS THAT!?
BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER MAN WHO COULD HAVE GIVEN SUCH MASTERFUL COMMANDS AT SEKIGAHARA! ONLY LORD IEYASU!
YOU MAY NOT KNOW THIS BECAUSE YOU AND YOUR THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND TROOPS WERE LATE,
LISTEN CLOSE, LITTLE BOY!!

L LORD HIDE-TADA
H.. HE DOESN'T TRUST
BUT ABOVE ALL ELSE, IT WAS BECAUSE I DID NOT BELIEVE I COULD WIN AGAINST LORD IEYASU, THE GREATEST MARKSMAN OF THE COAST!
I MIGHT HAVE JOINED THE KANTO ARMY OUT OF MY LOATHING OF MITSUNARI...
ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE TASTED COMBAT ON THE FRONT LINES COULD UNDERSTAND!!
NO MERE SHADOW COULD SEND MATCHLOCKS TO FIRE UPON KOBAYAKAWA'S CAMP!
HUH ...?
AND LORD IEYASU WON, LIKE I EXPECTED!
B BUT THAT WAS ACTUALLY THE SHADOW WARRIOR
AND IF, PERCHANCE, THAT WERE TRUE, THEN WHAT? I WOULD HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR THE TOKUGAWA! ARE YOU FINE WITH THAT?
!?
YOU STILL DARE SAY THAT ?

AND I... THE TOKUGAWA HAVE OVER SIXTY THOUSAND... DO YOU THINK YOU CAN WIN...?
Y-YOU HAVE ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND SOLDIERS, LORD FUKUSHIMA..
LIGHAAH !
Y... YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH DOING THIS TO ME...?
D.. DO YOU THINK..
....
HUH !?
H.. HE'S SERIOUSLY GOING TO MAKE THE TOKUGAWA HIS OPPONENT!
H.. HE'S SERIOUS.. I-.. ISN'T HE AFRAID OF ME!?
TRY ME, CHILD !!
LIRGH !!
IT'LL BE AS EASY AS TWISTING A BABY'S NECK!
WITH YOU AS GENERAL,

WHAT ? WE LOST 1600 MEN!? WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
M- MY LORD! IT'S TERRIBLE! THERE WERE TROOPS LYING IN AMBUSH & AND THEY'RE ATTACKING THE MAIN CAMP!
WHAT ?
It was then that Hidetada remembered the siege of Ueda Castle, which caused him to be late. Ueda Castle was guarded by Sanada Masayuki and his son Yukimura, known for being wise generals.
AHH !!
Hidetada's army of 38,000 besieging Ueda Castle faced interference from Sanada's 2,000-strong army led by the cunning Sanada Masayuki. Because of this daily mischief, they were late for Sekigahara.
GHAA AH!
URR RGH ...
M- MY LORD! HURRY!
UH- HUH !?
AND WE WERE UP AGAINST THE STEELED VETERAN SANADA MASAYUKI!
ALWAYS DO NOT GO A BATTLE! IT IS ALL ABOUT THE GENERAL'S STRATEGY
F FROM A MERE TWO THOUSAND !?
W WHY DO I AND MY 38,000 TROOPS HAVE TO RUN.
YOU ARE BUT A BABY TO SANADA!
I AL- READY TOLD YOU!

Hidetada's first battle served to expose Hidetada's lack of potential.
URR GH.
NOW, WHAT WILL YOU DO?
WILL YOU TRY ME, CHILD?
AHHH... I'LL BE SLAIN! I-IF SANADA'S TWO THOUSAND VEXED ME SO, HOW CAN I STAND AGAINST FURUSHIMA'S F.. FIVE THOUSAND .!?
M. MY FATHER IS ON HIS WAY HERE!
M. MUNENORI!! ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
HUH!?
I- IT'S JUST THAT M... MY FATHER IS SO OLD . SO I HAVE TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER, A AND I MUST HAVE BEEN TOO HASTY!
I-... IT'S A LIE! E... EVERYTHING I SAID WAS A LIE...!! I... I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE!
HUH !?
I-... IT'S NOT TRUE ...!!
HUH !?
STOP IT!! STOP THE ASSASSINA-TION!! IF THE SHADOW DIES, THINGS WILL TURN FROM BAD TO WORSE!
MY FATHER IS WELL, IS HE NOT?

W... WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HURRY!
ズ…ズ…
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! IF I GAVE THE ORDER TO STOP THE ASSASSINATION NOW, THEN BY THE TIME IT REACHES THEM, IT'D BE TOO LATE!
H... HE SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE NOW...
M... MUNENORI! YOU GO MEET HIM PARTWAY!
W. WHAT DO I DO? I.. I'VE DONE SOMETHING TERRIBLE.. I' I'M STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH! I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH!
HMM ...!?
HUH?
FUKU-SHIMA MASA-NORI!!
I. I MUST KILL...
N. NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS...
!?
UNNGH. THINGS CAN'T GET WORSE...

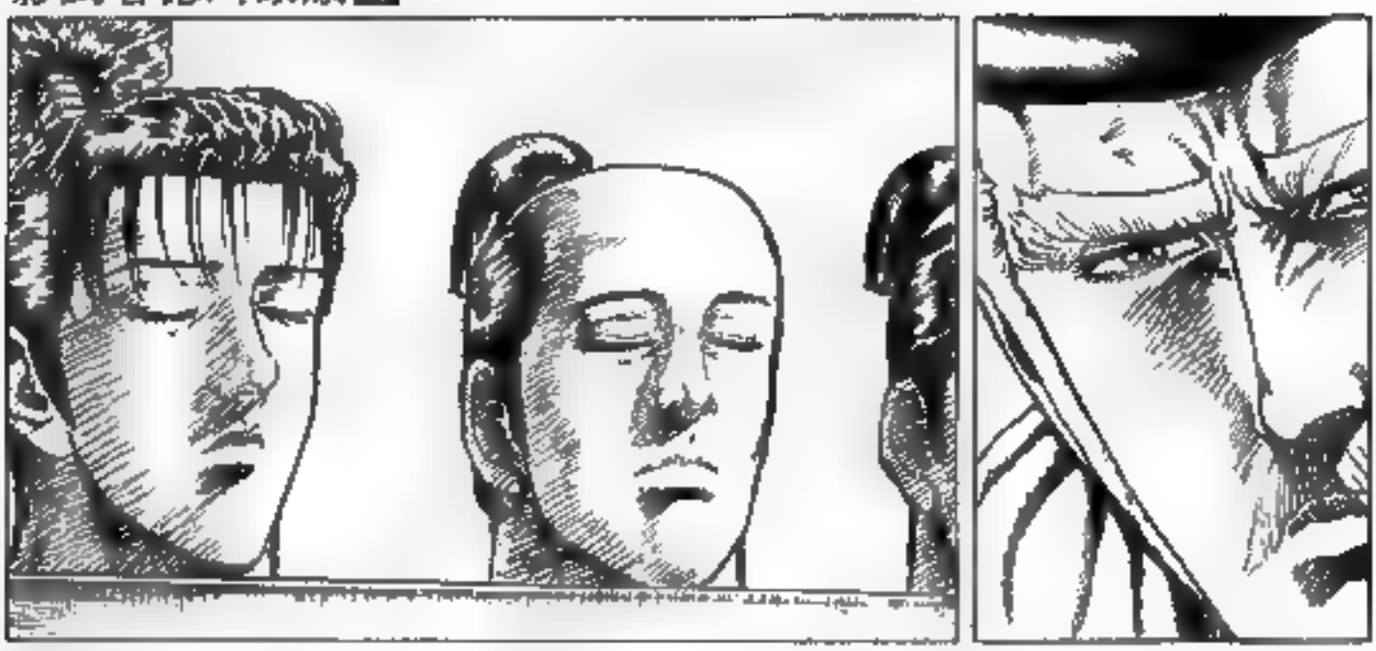
DON'T TELL ME THE MINISTER IS REALLY
I, I HAVE TO DO IT!!
!!
ALL THAT MATTERS... IS WHETHER I CAN PROTECT LORD HIDETADA.
AT THIS DISTANCE, THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN ESCAPE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE, HIDETADA !?

!?

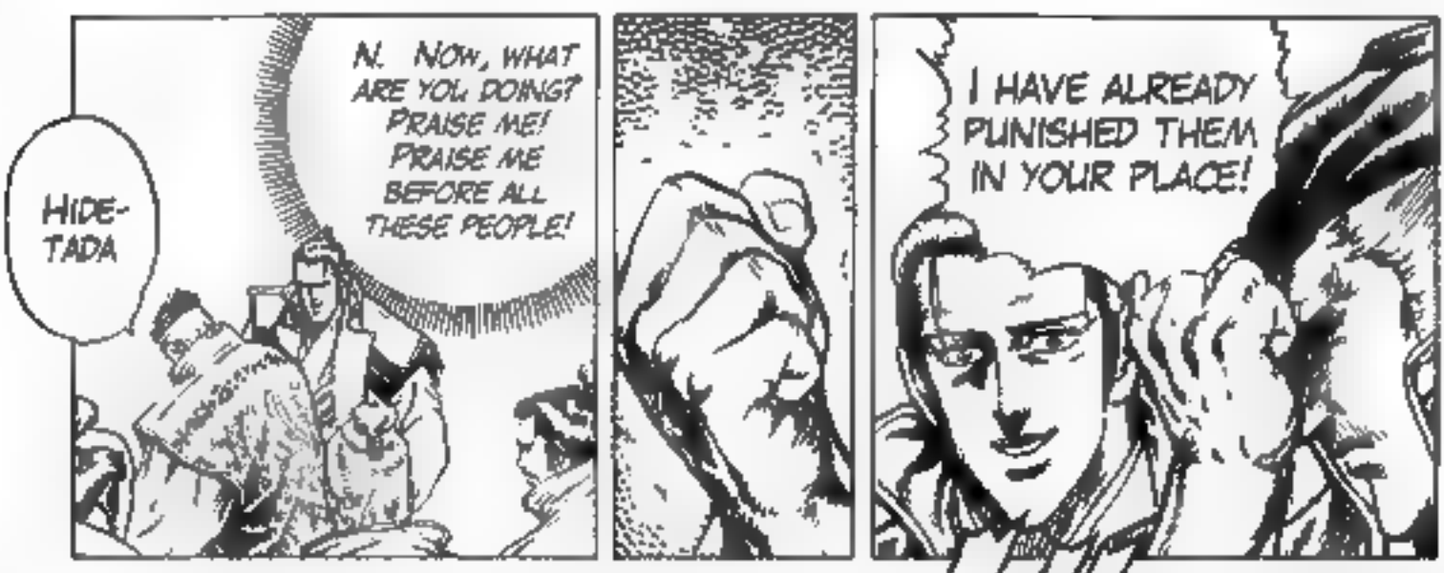
W. WHY I-
IS HE HERE!?

THE SHAD-
OW!?
T.

W... WHATEVER THE CASE, I... I'M SAVED...
I-... IF IT ISN'T THE MINISTER!
YOUR SON JUST TRIED TELLING ME YOU'D DIED... AND THE SHADOW LIVED ON! I WAS ABOUT TO DE-CLARE WAR ON HIM!
SO YOU WERE COMING AFTER ALL...
F... FATHER!! I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!!



THESE ARE THE PERPE-TRATORS OF THIS INCIDENT!
F FATHER!!
L... LORD AKITSUNA...
I THINK OF THEM AS MY OWN CHILDREN..
THEY ARE NOT TO BLAME PLEASE.

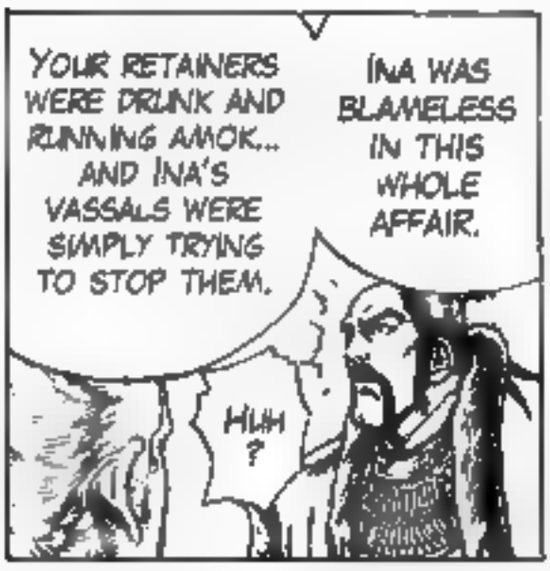

HIDE-TADA
N. NOW, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PRAISE ME! PRAISE ME BEFORE ALL THESE PEOPLE!
I HAVE ALREADY PUNISHED THEM IN YOUR PLACE!

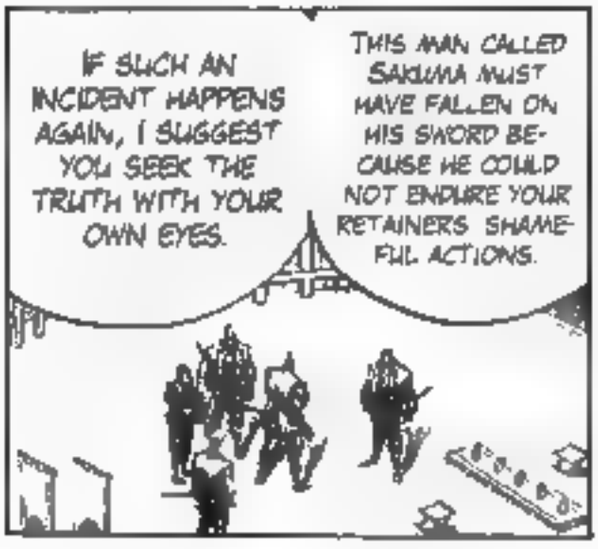
HUH !?

BBH!!
HOW DARE YOU ACT WITHOUT MY PERMISSION, YOU FOOL !!
!
HE BEAT HIM..!
H-
BB BH !!

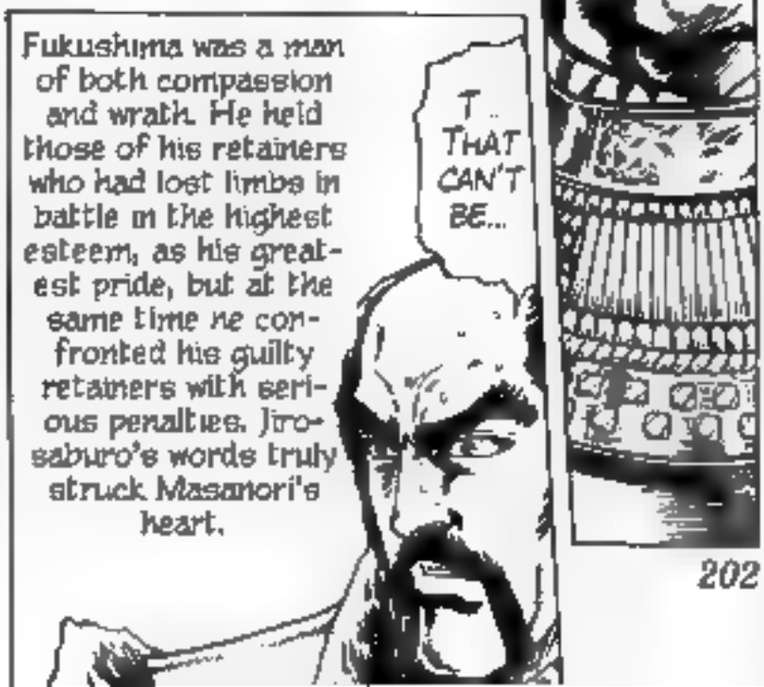
YES!!
LORD FUKUSHIMA ...
M... MY LORD !!
TAKE IT.
AS PROMISED, HERE IS INA'S HEAD.
!?
SO THIS TIME IT'S YOUR TURN TO FULFILL YOUR PROMISE TO ME.
!?
YES, NOW THAT I HAVE THIS.
I HAVE FULFILLED MY PROMISE.
I EXPECTED NO LESS OF YOU, MINISTER! YOU TRULY ARE REASONABLE! NOW I, MASANORI, AM AT PEACE.
OHH, SO YOU DECIDED TO MEET MY DEMANDS!

EXPLAIN YOURSELF! IF THIS CONTINUES, WE MAY HAVE TO TAKE AN AGGRESSIVE STANCE AGAINST OSAKA!!
I HAVE ENTRUSTED YOU WITH CONVINCING MORI, BUT I STILL SEE NO SIGNS OF HIM MOVING!


YOUR RETAINERS WERE DRUNK AND RUNNING AMOK... AND INA'S VASSALS WERE SIMPLY TRYING TO STOP THEM.
INA WAS BLAMELESS IN THIS WHOLE AFFAIR.
HUH ?


IF SUCH AN INCIDENT HAPPENS AGAIN, I SUGGEST YOU SEEK THE TRUTH WITH YOUR OWN EYES.
THIS MAN CALLED SAKUMA MUST HAVE FALLEN ON HIS SWORD BECAUSE HE COULD NOT ENDURE YOUR RETAINERS' SHAMEFUL ACTIONS.

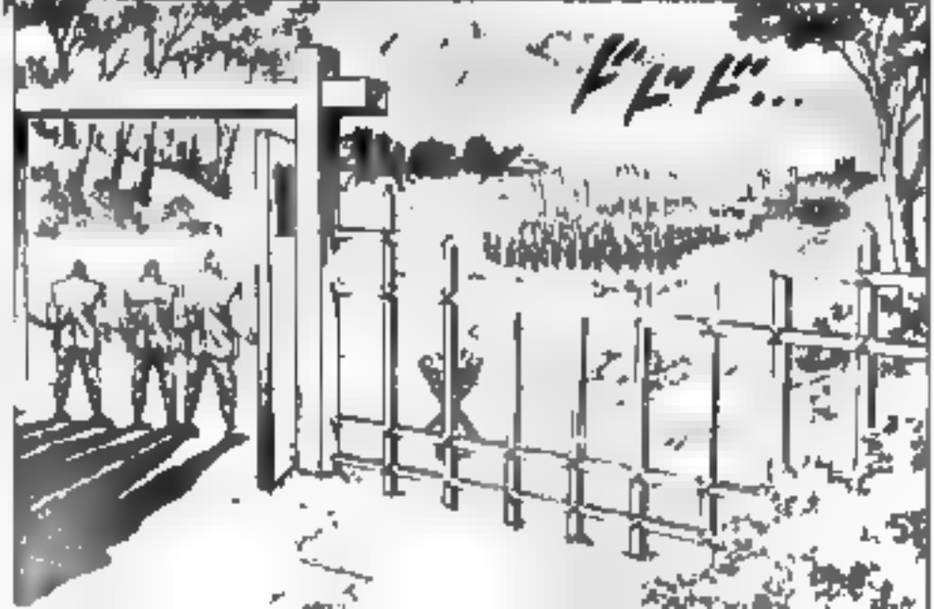
Fukushima was a man of both compassion and wrath. He held those of his retainers who had lost limbs in battle in the highest esteem, as his greatest pride, but at the same time he confronted his guilty retainers with serious penalties. Jirosaburo's words truly struck Masanori's heart.



THAT IS WHY I SWALLOWED MY TEARS AND PRESENTED YOU HIS HEAD, EVEN THOUGH I KNEW HE WAS INNOCENT!
LISTEN WELL! IF WE BREAK OUT IN WAR, LORD HIDE-YORI WILL BE DRAWN INTO IT!

RIGHT!
UHH ...!

PHEW ...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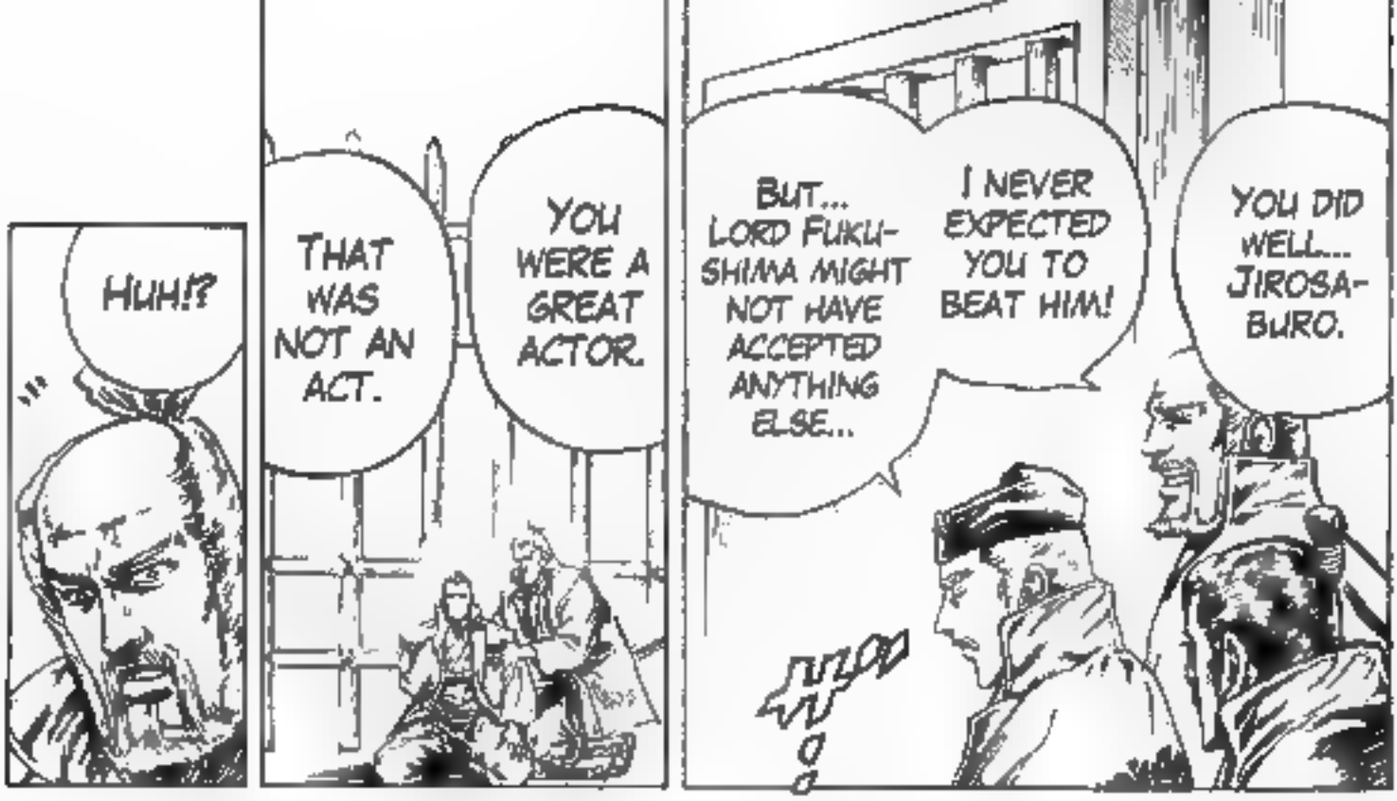
HUH!?
THAT WAS NOT AN ACT.
YOU WERE A GREAT ACTOR.
BUT... LORD FUKUSHIMA MIGHT NOT HAVE ACCEPTED ANYTHING ELSE...
I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO BEAT HIM!
YOU DID WELL... JIROSABURO.

NOW ... DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
MY LORD ...

A... AS YOU WILL.
I BEG YOU TO BE DISCREET UNTIL THE TOKUGAWA'S ADMINISTRATION IS SOLIDIFIED.
IF THE TOKUGAWA LOSE LORD IEYASU, WE CANNOT ACHIEVE PEACE.

The Ina incident ended with no significant problems. As Ina Akitsuna had no legitimate heir, the Ina Clan died in the fifth generation.

4 Ina Pass... Return of Tears!

- END

■ジャンプ・コミックス

影武者徳川家康

4 伊賀越…涙の帰参！の巻

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Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Thirty Three

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

FIGHT TAZMO

To my fellow fans -

Recently, a member of the community named Blud typed out a informative, and well written page that detailed the exploits of Narutofan creator Tazmo.

The point of this was to further spread the awareness of who Tazmo is, what he does, and why it is wrong. However, things like these tend to eventually need updating, and that is why this has been typed out.

What Blud stated is all very correct. However, it must be brought to everyones attention that Tazmo has expanded into full blown, stand alone websites that he has referred to as “revolutionary services”.

http://www.anime-plus.com

and

http://www.manga-plus.com

These websites seek to misinform manga and anime fans across the world into believing that his services are fair, the only one of their kind, and more secure than using other resources such as IRC or BitTorrent to get what you want.

The truth is as follows: Tazmo himself uses IRC and BitTorrent to get the files on his websites. He uses the FREE resources that every single one of you can also use, so that he can charge you various fees for getting what is FREE.

Tazmo is profiteering off of a FREE service provided by various members of the anime and manga community who donate their spare time to bring the latest manga and anime to you for FREE. They donate their time, work, and abilities in various areas, as well as use their own bandwidth to serve files.

There are various FREE ways to get and read the manga you want. There are free online readers such as http://www.onemanga.com as well as http://www.mangahut.com.

There are also resource websites such as http://www.mangahelpers.com, http://www.mangashare.com, as well as database resource sites such as http://www.mangaupdates.com.

There are thousands of people who work thousands of hours weekly to bring you the manga you love to read, as well as the anime you love to watch. They do it not to make a profit, but for FREE as a FREE service to the community that we all love very much. **EVERYTIME TAZMO MAKES MONEY OFF OF THEIR HARD WORK HE NOT ONLY INSULTS THEM, BUT INSULTS ALL THOSE WHO PAY FOR HIS SERVICE. Do the right thing, stop supporting Tazmo.**

Drafted by Kaioh. Inspired by Blud. Free distribution with any release is encouraged.
Fight Tazmo. Put this and Blud's page in your releases to get the word out.